Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Dates for Establishing New Assemblies Announced

FL0203015693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] The Council of State has agreed to designate 15 March as the day to have the deputies who were elected to the National Assembly of the People's Government in the 24 [February] elections meet at 0900 [1400 GMT] at the main hall of the Convention Center in Havana. The purpose of the meeting is to establish Cuba's new legislature.

The Council of State has also designated 7 March as the day the delegates of the Provincial Assemblies of the People's Government elected in the 24 [February] elections meet to formally establish their respective assemblies.

Machado on U.S. Economic Blockade, Socialism

MB2702112293 Johannesburg NEW NATION in English 26 Feb - 4 Mar 93 p 9

[Interview with Pedro Machado Hernandez, "executive committee member of Cuban Communist Party," who attended the African National Congress International Solidarity Conference in Johannesburg "last weekend" by NEW NATION—place and date not given]

NEW NATION: What are some of the problems facing Cuba at the moment?

PEDRO MACHADO HERNANDEZ: The major problem we are confronted with is the brutal economic blockade by the United States—a blockade the country has had to endure for the past 30 years.

Our people continue to suffer from the effects of this blockade. It has made it difficult for our people to obtain certain commodities. We have taken a number of economic measures throughout the years to try and lessen its effects, and we are grateful to the international solidarity which some countries and organisations have shown towards us in our struggle.

We do not know when the blockade will be lifted, if ever. We do not have illusions that it might be ended soon. We cannot expect an end to this problem simply because there is a new administration in the United States.

We will be ready to discuss issues that might lead to the lifting of the blockade with the new administration. But there should not be pre-conditions to the talks. It should be on the basis of equality. If the blockade continues and the new administration still sets pre-conditions, then we will have nothing to discuss. Our people have already endured 30 years of the blockade and they can continue making sacrifices.

Which commodities are in short supply in Cuba?

Most of the commodities we lack are those which we used to import from the former socialist countries. These countries have now joined with the United States in applying sanctions against Cuba.

These commodities include oil, raw materials for our industries and consumer goods. But despite the lack of these commodities and the resultant hardships, we have a stable government. People understand who is behind their hardship. We have a united and cohesive society behind us. People are ready to resist.

Can Cuba afford to stand alone?

The imperialist propaganda wants to portray a picture of a situation in which Cuba is standing alone in the world today. The fact is the opposite. We have huge support and solidarity from other countries in the world. We are facing the hostility from the US with our friends abroad. Cuba is not alone in this battle against the US.

What went wrong with the implementation of socialist policies?

I assume you refer to the implementation of socialism in certain parts of the world. In Cuba we believe that socialism is being developed and implemented properly.

We have tried to make improvements to the way socialism should be implemented in our country. We had long realised that it had its own deficiencies and that there was a need to make adjustment and improvements throughout the years. We have always been conscious of that fact.

How socialism can be improved is closely related to the specific conditions of each country. But one important aspect in this process is the inclusion of the masses in the decision-making process towards its improvement and implementation. They have to actively participate—not only in implementation—but in decision-making too. The masses should be part of the system and not something separate from the elite leadership. We have strived to do that in Cuba.

We do not foresee Cuba abandoning its socialist system. We will not try to find solutions in the free market system. But we do realise that a socialist country has to develop its economic relations with the rest of the world.

Was former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of perestroyka a mistake?

We feel that Gorbachev was sincerely trying to find solutions to his country's problems. He embarked on a number of transformations. But the major mistake he made was going off track in trying to find socialist solutions on the basis of capitalist measures. That is where he went wrong.

In Cuba we became aware of the problems which were confronting the socialist world. We started early in the 1980's trying to find solutions for our economy. We had a process called rectification, where we tried to rectify the mistakes of our system. But one thing we did not do was to try and look for solutions in the capitalist world.

The rectification process in Cuba was started long before perestroyka. We have succeeded in that regard because

we applied our own views from a socialist perspective.

Socialism did not succeed in other countries. Why should Cuba be any different?

The strength of our socialism lies in the fact that it is authentic and legitimate. It was not imported nor imposed from abroad. It was a decision on the part of our people. That's where we have the basis of our success, which explains the popularity of our revolution. People identify with it.

I cannot tell you if people in other former socialist countries identified with what was going on. But I think any system has to clearly take the conditions which are prevailing in the country as a basis.

What was the basis of Cuba's socialist development and how far has it succeeded in that regard?

From the beginning of the revolution, we understood that the development of the social process needed to start mainly with those areas which had been neglected. We identified these to be education and health and started to put more resources, both human and material, into improving them.

At the time of independence, we had less than 2,500 doctors in the whole country. Due to the priority given to medicine we now have 45,000 medical practitioners in the country. We now have an oversupply of doctors. That is why some of our doctors are involved in giving assistance to our allies in Third World countries, including a number of African countries.

What priorities should a new government of national unity in South Africa concern itself with?

Everybody knows that health and education services for the oppressed masses in South Africa are in a mess. We believe that the new government will definitely have to give urgent attention to these areas. I thin Cuba would be able to give help to the new government in these fields if requested.

We have been giving help to other countries and I do not see why we should not do the same for South Africa.

Would your country consider sending troops to Angola again if asked by the Angola government?

When Cuba decided to give military help to the Angolan government, its decision was based on South Africa's illegal invasion of Angola. South Africa was forced to withdraw. Our troops are now back in Cuba.

The situation is different now. What is going on at the moment is an internal conflict between the people of Angola. We are confident that the Angolan people will try and find a solution to their country's problem.

We continue to pledge our solidarity with the government of Angola. We are providing help to the people of Angola with our medical doctors and teachers, but we are no longer giving any military help.

Elections were held in Cuba this week. What were these elections for and what form id they take?

This week's democratic elections were for parliament, which is referred to as "People's Power". The candidates who were running were directly elected by the people. They were not chosen by the Communist Party.

The vote was by direct and secret ballot. We believe that this mechanism is a way of improving our socialist democracy. The candidates were chosen from the grassroots.

How many parties were contesting the elections?

Our elections are very different to those in other countries. There are no parties involved in this elections. Candidates do not belong to any party. They are chosen on merit and not by party affiliation.

The Communist Party is not involved in any way in the elections. People who are running for parliamentary seats need not be members of the Communist Party.

Would Cuba allow political parties other than the Communist Party to operate?

You have to understand something very clear about the situation in Cuba. You should take into consideration the United States' hostility towards Cuba. If we allowed other political parties, then you can expect that they will be infiltrated and promoted by the US. The US is waiting for every opportunity to undermine our revolution.

There is not much interest from people themselves to form other political parties. The formation of parties will be something that will be orchestrated from outside. This is something we cannot allow at the moment because the US will use these parties to work against us. You have seen from the experience of other countries, how the United States manipulated certain parties in its favour.

How would you position Cuba in the world in the year 2000?

I think Cuba will still be practising and following socialist principles. We have confidence in socialism. On the basis of this confidence we will continue to struggle for its best implementation.

Cuba will still be alive and progressing well in the year 2000. We hope to be doing better than we are now.

Alfonso Criticizes UN 'Double Standard'

FL2602190193 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Cuba defended the principles of the UN Charter concerning the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental liberties, especially international cooperation, after emphatically rejecting coercion as a means to achieve them. The Cuban position was expressed by Miguel Alfonso Martinez at the 49th annual session of the UN Human Rights Commission that is being held in Geneva, during a debate on promoting human rights and fundamental liberties, including the Commission's agenda and work methods.

The Cuban criticism pointed out that 15 years after the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to study

approaches and means within the organization's system, there is now an attempt to impose threats and use of force as models of behavior. Alfonso called the Commission's attention to similar means such as the military occupation of foreign territories and economic coercion through individual or collective sanctions.

Alfonso cited the case of the 415 Palestinians deported by Israel as an example of the organization's double standard. This mocks the decisions of the Security Council, dominated by the United States, which supports the Tel Aviv regime while maintaining sanctions against other countries. Alfonso also spoke of the very rapid development in the past few months of the tendency to justify so-called humanitarian intervention. Alfonso stressed that this must be rejected and that there must be coordinated action to confront in practice such a dangerous trend.

The Cuban delegate pointed out that this tendency endangers national sovereignty and political independence, especially that of the Third World. He also cited the proliferation of mechanisms, [words indistinct] of special rapporteurs and work teams by the UN Human Rights Commission, which project an image that human rights are only violated in the Third World, which constitutes a serious ethical problem.

Raul Castro Attends Central Army Military Council

FL0103142493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The Central Army Military Council, which met in Ciego de Avila and was chaired by Army General Raul Castro, discussed subjects directly concerning defense preparation in that command's territory; matters of decisive national importance, such as the utilization of alternative energy sources and the food program; and the resounding success and historic significance of the 24 February elections.

The first secretaries of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] provincial committees of Ciego de Avila, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus, Villa Clara, and Matanzas Provinces gave reports on their responsibilities in their respective areas, the energy situation, the progress of the food program, the sugar harvest, and other economic and political tasks.

In his closing words, Army Gen. Raul Castro, the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], evaluated as good the work done to fulfill the important missions assigned to the Central Army, and described as significant the progress in the food program in that command with a view to self-sufficiency. The PCC second secretary insisted on the need and importance of cadre training throughout the entire country, beginning with the defense zones, and stressed the need to increase cooperation in combat between the different kinds of forces, which consist of millions of Cubans.

Finally, referring to the victory of the 24 February elections, the FAR minister said: We owe this gigantic triumph to the great, heroic people we have and the commander in chief who calls, teaches, and guides us in the fight for our definitive independence.

Economic Cooperation Agreements With N. Korea Signed

FL0203131893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] The DPRK and Cuban foreign trade ministers have signed trade and economic cooperation protocols that may exceed $100 million. The protocol covers trade in Cuban sugar and nickel and cooperation limited to the field of agriculture, where spare parts and accessories for agricultural and sugarcane equipment will be produced jointly.

In addition, the Koreans will supply the necessary equipment for the hydroelectric plants of the Toa and Duaba Rivers, which are of great importance in the energy conservation strategy the country is currently carrying out.

In this regard, Foreign Trade Minister (Yi Song-tae) stated that it would be in Cuba's interest to build minihydroelectric plants at as many as possible of the sites of difficult access, preferably in the mountains.

Ricardo Cabrisas stated that he believed that the results of the talks confirmed the potential for exchange and trade between the two countries. For his part, in comments for this newscast, (Yi Song-tae) expressed thanks for the successful effort made in Cuba to finalize these talks.

Roundup of Economic Activity 18 Feb - 1 Mar

FL0103152193

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 18 February and 1 March.

A total of 14 brigades of regular canecutters and 15 combine operators from all over Cuba have cut over 1 million arrobas of sugarcane during the current sugar harvest. Ten pieces of medical diagnostic equipment developed by the Medical Biophysics Center in Santiago de Cuba are functioning successfully at different treatment centers. The first contingent of the Argentine Jose de San Martin Brigade has been officially welcomed to Cuba. It was announced during the ceremony that the group brought a donation consisting of school supplies, powdered milk, and medicine. [Radio Progreso 1200 GMT 18 Feb]

In Havana Province, collection of agricultural products should increase in the remaining 10 days of the month. Forty percent of the plan has been completed, with more than 12,000 and 17,000 quintals of boniato and yucca, respectively, to be harvested. Rain has caused losses in the tomato crop. There are 133,000 quintals to be

harvested before the end of February. There have been 200,000 quintals of agricultural products sent to the capital so far in February, which equals 10 pounds per capita. [Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 18 Feb]

The new Lazaro Pena cigarette factory has opened in Holguin Province, with a production capacity of 2 billion units per year. It will make Minero brand cigarettes. The initial production plan, which will begin in March, calls for delivery of 650 million units. The factory will have a little over 200 workers and will work two shifts. [Radio Reloj 1500 GMT 19 Feb]

In Sancti Spiritus Province over 3,000 fuel saving devices have been manufactured. The device reduces fuel by an average of 10 percent by atomizing gas particles to increase the flow rate. The inventor, who won a prize in the fifth National Spare Parts Forum, developed 12 models for 24 types of vehicles. To date, the device is being used only in Lada autos and ZIL-130 trucks. [Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 22 Feb] The Syndical Union of Workers Committees [Union Sindical de Comisiones Obreras] of Barcelona and the Barcelona Municipal Government have officially presented Cuba with 23 donated buses, part of a 50-bus lot purchased with contributions from the workers of Barcelona. The buses and 234 tons of donated potatoes will arrive in Cuba by ship. [Radio Rebelde 1255 GMT 25 Feb]

Nickel industry specialists in Moa Municipality, Holguin Province, have begun to increase production of spare parts to reduce the number of imports and bring down the cost of technological processes. They have implemented a plan for making spare parts and accessories at the Commander Gustavo Machin Mechanical Plant. There are other programs in effect, but this new plan alone should save Cuba over 17 million pesos. [Radio Rebelde 1255 GMT 26 Feb]

700,000 poles [cujes] of tobacco for export were harvested at the Lazaro Pena Enterprise in Havana Province. This figure represents 28 percent of the plan for this year with 75 caballerias planted of which 22 were damaged but were recovered through workers' efforts. There are also plans to grow 650 caballerias of black-eyed peas.

The Sugar Ministry plans to plant 15,498 caballerias of cane in the spring season which ends on 30 June. As of 24 February, approximately 860 caballerias had been planted. [Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 26 Feb]

Guantanamo was the first province to complete cold-season planting which began in September. It planted 753 caballerias of tubers and vetetables, projected to produce 80 percent of the year's planned 1.5 million quintals. Plans are to plant 870 caballerieas between March and August for 1994 production. [Havana Radio Rebelde 1000 GMT 1 Mar] Cuba is now in a position to meet its own bentonite needs. The mineral has diverse industrial applications. The manager of the Gustavo Machin Ore Processing Plant says the plant can produce 31,000 tons this year, 12,000 of which can be used for export. He adds that the plant produces the mineral for Havana, Matanzas, Havana City, and Pinar del Rio Provinces. He says there is interest in the Caribbean in purchasing this product.

Outstanding results are currently being obtained in the chemical, pharmaceutical, food, textile, cosmetic, sugar, and other industries by using sucrose extracted from sugarcane as a source of new by-products. One such product is dextran, a biopolymer widely used in drilling oil wells and as an adhesive and agglutinating agent with varied applications. [Radio Rebelde Network 1800 GMT 27 Feb] The sugar harvest in Villa Clara Province has been affected recently by the rains and a lack of fuel. Twenty-two mills are currently in operation in Villa Clara Province, yet the Sugar Industry Ministry representative in Villa Clara has reported that the harvest is behind schedule. [Radio Progreso Network 1100 GMT 27 Feb] Las Tunas Province has replanted over 430 caballerias of canefields in its seven agroindustrial complexes, thereby doubling the plan for the first two months of 1993. [Radio Rebelde Network 1000 GMT 27 Feb]

Guantanamo is the first province to complete cold-season planting which began in September. It has planted 753 caballerias of tubers and vegetables, which will produce 80 percent of the year's plan of 1.5 million quintals. Between March and August, 870 caballerias will be planted for 1994 production. [Radio Rebelde 1000 1 Mar]

Barbados

Minister Defends Government Privatization Policy

FL0103222593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1756 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 1 CANA—A Barbados government minister has asserted that his administration's privatisation policy is transparent and in the public's best interest. Minister of State for Finance David Thompson said government's equity in the sale of Barbados External Telecommunications (BET), which runs the overseas communications network and the local phone company, Bartel, was sold with the primary objective of raising foreign exchange.

"Are we giving away the family silver? The government has no intention of doing any such thing," contended Thompson in an address to the Barbados Association of Professional Engineers over the weekend. The minister said the procedures put in place on privatisation were transparent and the interest of the Barbadian public remained paramount.

The sale of government's shares in BET and Bartel to cable and wireless last year was roundly criticised by opposition parties and some sections of the public. Critics have described the two companies as key national assets. Government drew up a privatisation plan after a deterioration in its finances and lower revenues from

most sectors forced it to enter into an economic stabilization programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Thompson said government engaged consultants at considerable expense to advise on the valuation of equity and the privatisaiton strategies to be adopted. The minister said: "Where an enterprise is to be sold through private placement, an information memorandum is prepared. An advertisement announcing the sale and availability of the information memorandum is then published in the local, regional, and international news media and in trade journals.

"The information memorandum is then distributed to anyone requesting it.

"The objective of this exercise is to ensure that notice of intention to privatise is widely disseminated and that all interested parties have an opportunity to submit proposals for the purchase of the asset," said Thompson.

He added that proposals for the purchase of an asset received by the scheduled date were then evaluated by the consultants and a recommendation made to the cabinet.

"I can give you the assurance that the cabinet will not be advised to accept any proposal that falls short of the established value of the asset."

"Where the shares of an enterprise are to be sold by public, rather than private placement, a prospectus will be prepared and issued," said the minister of state.

"The government's decision to pursue a strategy of privatisation is based on a pragmatic assessment of the state of the economy and of the policies that must be implemented to achieve economic dynamism," said Thompson.

Cayman Islands

Government Announces Plan To Trim Civil Service

FL0103234893 Bridgetown CANA in English 2123 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, March 1, CANA—The Cayman Islands Government has announced plans to reduce the civil service staff by 7.5 per cent. Temporary staff and overseas contract officers are expected to bear the brunt of the cuts.

A two-member inspectorate has been appointed to review staffing needs and carry out the cuts. The inspectorate, consisting of Deputy Chief Secretary James Ryan and Assistant Financial Secretary Joel Walton, has started work. They are scheduled to report to government by 31 March.

The review has begun with temporary staff and overseas contract officers. Government has assured local staff that everything will be done to secure Caymanian jobs. Meanwhile, a full moratorium has been placed on all staff recruitment. Government says exceptions will only be made in respect of essential services, on exceptional grounds, and only with the sanction of the chief secretary.

The Cayman Islands, with a resident population of around 28,000, has a work force of 16,000, including 1,640 civil servants. Some 25 per cent of civil servants are temporary staff or overseas contract officers.

In an interview, Chief Secretary Lemuel Hurlston said: "Everyone has been saying the civil service is too big, too costly, and too unwieldy. Now we are doing something to bring costs down."

The present government, which came to power in the November elections last year, promised to review government expenditure and reduce such expenditure where prudent. It promised "to identify areas in which savings can be realised in all departments of government."

The Civil Service Association (CSA), with a membership of around 650 civil servants, appears to be willing to go along with staff reduction plan. CSA President Walling Whittaker said the CSA realised that the service might need some reduction. The retrechment "may be at a timely and appropriate moment," Whittaker said, commending government for taking the initiative.

The majority of the CSA membership met last Friday with two top civil servants, Chief Secretary Lemuel Hurlston and Financial Secretary George McCarthy, and politician and leader of Government Business Tom Jefferson. The three had outlined government's austerity measures. Describing the Friday meeting, Whittaker said the moves were based on the serious nature of government's position. It was not a "rosy picture," he said, adding it was vitally important that there be the 7.5 per cent staff reduction.

Dominican Republic

President Balaguer Addresses Privatization Issue

FL0103202893 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has advocated privatizing several state enterprises. The president of the republic stated that the privatization process should be carried out just as it is being done in Argentina, starting with the enterprises that are causing considerable losses to the state.

[Begin Balaguer recording] [Word's indistinct] state of things [words indistinct] the great crisis in the Dominican Republic, which is the lack of a complete clean-up of its economy. However, [words indistinct] to pass the state enterprises to the private sector, the process should be begun as it was begun in Argentina recently, with the sale of the enterprises which are in

the red, not those that, in spite of terrible management and political interference, reach the end of every year showing profits. [end recording]

President of the Republic Dr. Joaquin Balaguer admitted the Dominican Republic's greatest problem is poverty, but he said this is true not only in our country. In this regard, the president stated that poverty affects half of humanity.

[Begin Balaguer recording] I admit, members of the legislature, that our country's main problem is poverty. But this is a situation that affects half of humanity, in the Third World and even outside the Third World. We, (?living) on half an island, could not be an exception. We must also keep in mind that high levels of the world population that have been reached and that even endanger the very existence of our planet. [end recording]

Speaking to the National Assembly, President Balaguer explained that his administration has done everything possible to reduce poverty in the Dominican Republic.

[Begin Balaguer recording] The government has not been insensitive to this problem, and the border region—precisely the area of our territory where the part of our population most affected by malnutrition and lack of clothing lives—is where we are making the greatest effort to raise the standard of living in those human settlements which have been forgotten for whole centuries by their compatriots. [end recording]

Haiti

Government Condemns Incidents at Cathedral 25 Feb

FL0103210293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The government of the Republic has issued a communique stating that it was amazed to learn that at the conclusion of the memorial mass for the shipwreck victims, held at Port-au-Prince Cathedral on 25 February, numerous individuals started a demonstration in the church square.

The government strongly denounces such actions and reminds everyone that violence, wherever it comes from and whatever shape it takes, is reprehensible and cannot at all contribute to a solution to our society's problems. The government of the Republic—the note continues—deplores the use of a place of worship, regardless of Articles 162, 163, 164 of the penal code and the shameless exploitation of the grief of many Haitian families, for political purposes. While offering its sympathies to the victims of those regrettable incidents, the government of the Republic strongly hopes the presence of the civilian mission does not serve to aggravate passions, but on the contrary, is turned to a good advantage in order to search, for, in a calm atmosphere, a satisfactory solution to the crisis.

This is a government communique regarding the incidents on 25 February near the Port-au-Prince Cathedral.

OAS, UN Coordinators on Progress of Mission

FL0103213193 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The incident which occurred at the Port-au-Prince Cathedral is the first problem that the UN/OAS civilian observer mission has had to face in Haiti. This is a statement made by (Collins Anderson) and (Michael Muller), coordinators of the OAS/UN mission to Haiti on Tele-Haiti over the weekend. The two coordinators say they have already sent a report to the OAS and the United Nations to explain the events on 25 February. [passage omitted]

Concerning the evaluation of the work that the mission has already performed, the two coordinators say it is too early to do so because they are [only] at the preparation stage for sending several members to rural towns. They will be sent out as teams. However, prior to that, they are waiting for a report that experts on human rights, who were in the country for two weeks, compiled for them. This report will allow them to better position the teams. The political negotiations fall within the authority of Dante Caputo, according to (Michael Muller) who said that the mission, which he is leading, is intended to help the country return to normalcy, but that it is not intended to impose anything. [passage omitted]

Observers Ask Bazin To Investigate Attack on Bishop

FL0103221693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The international observers in Haiti have asked the Bazin government to open an investigation into the attack on Bishop Romelus. The heads of the civilian mission, (Collins Anderson) for the OAS and Michael Muller for the United Nations, stated in a communique that a group of troublemakers arrived when the police were leaving. On 25 February, Bishop Romelus accused civilian police auxiliaries of being responsible for the attack. The heads of the UN/OAS mission pointed out that the act was committed by several people who were openly searching to create an incident.

Military Impose Curfew on Jeremie 27 Feb

FL0103174693 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] According to the Haitian Press Agency [AHP], on the night of 27 February, the military quartered in the Goman Barracks in Jeremie sprayed the streets of the city with gunfire and imposed a curfew, after having made several arrests.

This situation occured following the Mass during which Monsignor Willy Romelus was given a warm ovation at the Jeremie Cathedral. After they left the church, the

faithful had handed out leaflets demanding the return of President Aristide. The military had then intervened and arrested several persons who were later released.

A curfew has been imposed on the entire city by the Army, which went from house to house advising the inhabitants to stay at home and turn off all lights. The AHP further reports that a woman, who refused to obey, explaining that she was preparing food for her children, was subjected to corporal abuse.

Msgr. Willy Romelus, who was attacked and beaten by civilian Army employees, partisans of the current government, had arrived in Jeremie on the night of 26 February, accompanied by a group of international observers. The bishop had criticized the irresponsibility of the current authorities and called for the return of the legitimate government during a Mass celebrated on the morning of 25 February at the Port-au-Prince Cathedral.

CONACOM Leader Reports Abduction of Party Member

FL0103190593 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Victor Benoit, leader of the National Congress of Democratic Movements [CONACOM], has announced that a group of armed civilian abducted Rodrigue Paul, an activist for this political party. Four armed civilians abducted the partisan at the corner of Avenue Magny and Rue Capois after having sprayed something in his face. According to Benoit's report, the armed civilians abducted Rodrigue Paul on the afternoon of 27 February. He received many blows. When he regained consciousness, he found himself in Portail Leogane at 0600 the next day.

People Fear Army Reprisal Following Soldier's Death

FL0103184093 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The people living in the area of Ruelle Titus, Carrefour-Feuilles, noted that on the morning of 28 February, a soldier was shot to death. This soldier, Valery Jean-Leconte, was a soldier attached to the 43rd Company of the Haitian Armed Forces. Nobody has managed to discover the reasons fo this soldier's murder, or by whom it was committed. The people living in the area, however, fear a military reprisal against them because of the murder.

St. Lucia

Canadian Envoy Announces Spending Cuts in Caribbean

FL0103223893 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, March 1, CANA—Canada's high commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean, Janet Zukowsky, said on Monday that a co-operation programme involving an educational institution here had become a casualty of her country's effort to reduce its growing expenditure bill. Zukowsky speaking at a signing ceremony for a multi-million dollar dam project, said Canada was seeking to reduce federal government expenditure in order to finance new initiatives to stimulate the domestic economy.

"These austerity measures which total in the order of 8 billion Canadian dollars over this and the next two fiscal years have unfortunately involved spending cuts across the entire range of federal government programming," she said. The high commissioner said Canada's official development assistance programme had been reduced by 221 million Canadian dollars.

Zukowsky said the magnitude of the spending cuts had resulted in some "painful choices," adding "in order to maintain the integrity of the Roseau Dam and other projects in the region, Canada will on a phased basis over the next several months be forced to terminate its assistance to Sir Arthur Lewis Community College's linkage with St. Lawrence College in Canada." But she noted that Canada would still provide assistance to some of its regional programmes such as the Canadian Awards Training Programme "although a few of these will be subject to moderate trimming."

"Canadian assistance provided under our Caribbean regional programmes will also be maintained allbeit at a slightly reduced level," she added.

The Roseau Dam project is estimated at EC110 million dollars (1 EC dollar = U.S.37 cents) and will be funded by CIDA [Canadian International Development Agency], the Caribbean Development Bank, the Organisation for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and other donors.

Permament secretary in the Ministry of Planning Ausbert d'Auvergne said on completion, the dam would serve as a major contributor to the island's economy, through its provision of adequate water supply to the northern and northwestern parts of the country. The dam would have a storage capacity of more than 700 million imperial gallons, be 140 feet high and 1 mile long.

"This new source of supply will satisfy the demands of St. Lucia's population well into the 21st century," D'Auvergne said. Foundation Company of Canada will construct the dam.

SLP Deputy Expelled for Criticism

FL0103161493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1455 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, March 1, CANA—Former deputy political leader of the St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) Peter Josie has been expelled, a party statement said Monday. It said the decision to expel Josie, who has

since the defeat of the SLP in general elections here last year been very critical of party leader Julian Hunte, was taken over the weekend.

".... Members of the central executive voted overwhelmingly to expel Mr. Peter Josie from the St. Lucia Labour Party. This decision by the central executive is in keeping with the constitution of the SLP which empowers the central executive to enquire into the conduct of any party member and to take such action against the member including expulsion...." The statement added.

The party said Josie, the SLP's longest serving parliamentarian, was being expelled because of "his constant criticism of the leadership of the labour party since the last general elections and more recently of the entire executive of the party."

The statement said that Josie had been summoned to attend the executive meeting to answer charges of bringing the party into disrepute, but "failed to attend...and the matter was dealt with accordingly in keeping with the constitution of the party."

Josie had earlier this year obtained a high court injunction preventing the party from proceeding with the charges against him, and the SLP statement said it had carried out the wishes of the court and allowed Josie up to 21 days to answer the charges. CANA was unable to obtain a comment from Josie.

Honduras

Measures To Reorganize Secret Police Announced

PA0203034593 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0253 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Rafael Callejas on 1 March announced the creation of a high-level commission that will propose within 30 days specific measures to reorganize the secret police and other state security organizations.

The decision was adopted at a meeting of the National Security Council that included the presidents of the Judicial and Legislative Branches, the Catholic archbishop, presidential candidates, political leaders, media owners, and military chiefs.

The basic topic addressed at the meeting was the high crime rate in the country and the recent charges against the secret police, accused by one of its former agents of being responsible for various crimes.

Catholic Archbishop Oscar Andres Rodriguez was appointed chairman of the 15-member commission which must present various recommendations within 30 days to "bring calm to the nation."

The basic short-term objective will be to propose an in-depth reform of the current structure of the secret police and other security forces, which are blamed by the public of committing many human rights violations.

As part of the commission's preliminary commitments, General Luis Alonso Discua, chief of the Armed Forces, announced that the armored personnel carriers and jeeps patrolling the country's main cities will return to their garrisons.

President Callejas said he is confident the commission, which will not have an executive nature, will carry out "satisfactorily" the function for which it was created.

Callejas Reads National Agreement on Reforms

PA0203051293 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0145 GMT 2 Mar 93

["National Agreement for Institutional Reforms To Guarantee Security and Social Peace in Honduras" read by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Text] Aware of the national concern expressed by Honduran society in various ways, with regard to the problem of new and old forms of violence and crime, and determined to take whatever measures are necessary to punish those responsible for the crimes committed, discourage crime, and deter criminal actions that offend society as a whole and individuals in particular;

And considering that Honduras is a de jure system where the enforcement of the law must prevail and that a consensus from all sectors of society is indispensable for social peace; the president of the Republic met with the heads of the state branches, the National Security Council, the presidential candidates, the representatives of the leaderships of the legally registered parties, the legal representatives of the media, and Monsignor Oscar Andres Rodriguez, archbishop of Tegucigalpa and president of the National Reconciliation Commission.

As a result of a thorough analysis of this problem, we have reached very important conclusions for Honduras, conclusions that are mentioned in this document.

This means that we need to conduct a study of the sector that is responsible for the protection of people and property and to adopt administrative measures, as well as to present the necessary bills that will lead to an effective organization of the state, an organization that will make a true and just application of the law possible. This basically involves the reorganization of the state's jurisdiction, the Attorney General's Office, the police, and the auxiliary organizations of the Judicial Branch. It also involves the removal of the basic causes that lead to committing crimes. It involves the struggle against drug trafficking and the reform of the country's prison system.

The president of the Republic, using the constitutional powers invested in him and after consulting the aforementioned sectors, announces the following to the Honduran people:

An ad hoc commission is created, made up of the following: Msgr. Oscar Andres Rodriguez Madariaga, a representative of the Tegucigalpa Archdiocese and the National Reconciliation Commission; five representatives of the Executive Branch, namely, Jose Francisco Cardona Arguelles, Brigadier General Lazaro Melanio Avila Soleno, lawyer Jose Maria Palacios, Brigadier General Reynaldo Andino Flores, Infantry Colonel Mario Raul Hung Pacheco; one representative of each of the party blocs represented in the National Congress, namely, Donaldo Reyes Avelar of the National Party of Honduras [PNH], Jorge Arturo Reina Idiaquez of the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH], Carlos Alejandro Sosa Coello of the Social Democratic Innovation and Unity Party [PINU-SD]); two representatives of the Judicial Branch, namely, Magistrate Rigoberto Espinal Irias, and Magistrate Jorge Adalberto Vasquez Martinez; one representative of each of the presidential candidates, namely, Jorge Omar Casco of the PNH, Efrain Moncada Silva of the PLH, Alfredo Landaverde of the Honduran Christian Democratic Party [PDCH], German Leitzelar of the PINU-SD; two representives of the news media, namely, Jose Rafael Ferrari, and Jaime Rosethal Oliva.

The ad hoc commission will report and propose solutions regarding the following topics: a) specific, immediate, and mediate measures that must be adopted by the Department of National Investigation, DNI, within a 30-day period, beginning today; b) specific, immediate, and mediate measures that must be adopted by the police corps, so they fully ensure the security of people and their properties; c) specific, immediate, and mediate measures to strengthen the plan to professionalize police

agents and officers so that they have a statute that guarantees they will conduct their duties in a stable, nonpolitical, and impartial manner; d) specific, immediate, and mediate measures that promote the creation of new auxiliary organisms of the Judicial Branch and strengthen the existing organism; e) specific, immediate, and mediate measures that must be adopted regarding the Attorney General's Office so it can fully perform its duties as the defender of the law, protect human rights, and undertake actions contemplated in the laws for public order offenses.

Acting as the chairman of this commission will be the representative Msgr. Oscar Andres Rodriguez Madariaga. To fulfill the task entrusted to it, the ad hoc commission will also have broad powers to investigate all matters pertaining to its mission. Supplying information and appearing when summoned by the ad hoc commission will be compulsory. The Executive Branch will provide the necessary resources so the ad hoc commission can perform its task.

[Issued] Tegucigalpa, 1 March 1993

[Signed] President Rafael Leondaro Callejas Romero; National Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas; Chief Justice Rosendo Orlando Lozano Martinez; Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces; Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Andino Flores, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff; Brig. Gen. Lazaro Melanio Alvarez Soleno, defense and public security minister; Brig. Gen. Oscar Finlander Armijo Ucles, Armed Forces inspector general; Brigadier General Guillermo Paredes Hernandez, Armed Forces joint chief of staff; Brigadier General Hector Castro Cabus, commander of the Honduran Air Force; Inf. Col. Mario Raul Hung Pacheco, commander of the Public Security Forces; Captain Bruno Fontana, commander of the Honduran Navy; PLH presidential candiate Carlos Roberto Reina; PNH presidential candidate Jose Osvaldo Ramos Soto; PINU-SD presidential candidate Olban Valladares; PDCH President (?Herzog Tabora); Jose Rafael Ferrari; Jaime Rosenthal Oliva; (?Miguel Antoni Fernandez); Carlos Flores Facusse; Jorge Canahuati; Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata; Roque Ruben Pascua, acting government and justice minister; presidential adviser Mario Rivera Lopez; Gilberto Goldstein, private secretary of the president; and Colonel Herbert Munguia.

Nicaragua

Vice President Godoy Speaks at UNO Rally

PA0103174893 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1750 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Speech by Vice President Virgilio Godoy Reyes during rally organized by the National Opposition Union, UNO, at the Republic Square in Managua—live]

[Text] Greetings to the victorious flag of the National Opposition Union [UNO], which is the victorious flag of all Nicaragua. [crowd cheers] Greetings to the unyielding people who live for freedom, greetings to democracy, greetings to the women and youths of our Nicaragua. Three years ago, three years ago [repeats himself] nobody thought we were going to win. Diplomats were wrong. International reporters were wrong. Many people were wrong because the people voted en masse for liberty and democracy in Nicaragua. The terrorists of that time, those who killed UNO activists, those who threw UNO activists in jail, those who lost to UNO, thought they had victory assured but were wrong. The people proved them wrong. [crowd cheers]

This afternoon, we are not going to ask for a minute of silence for the 14 UNO activists who were killed in that electoral campaign. You are the best tribute we can give them three years after the UNO victory. [crowd shouts: "Long live UNO!"] Many remember that a young UNO activist put our flag atop that cross in those ruins, and that he was later killed. We also pay tribute to that young man in the ruins of the cathedral, in that cross, in UNO! [unidentified speaker shouts: "Long live UNO!" "Long live Virgilio Godoy Reyes!" "Long live the vice president!"; crowd shouts: "Long live!"] Above anything else, above anything else [repeats himself], you have come here to reaffirm today that the country, all Nicaragua, does not want any more war, it wants peace! [crowd shouts: "They must go!"] The ones who wanted war before, those who sent thousands and thousands of young Nicaraguans to die must feel ashamed now to see that three years after, a crowd gathered here, the same crowd is again saying we do not want war. [crowd chants: "They will sure as hell leave!" "They must go!"] It is not bad to remember, it is good to remember that at that time almost nobody gave a prayer for the people who are gathered now, the people who are gathered everywhere in Nicaragua. Everyone said we were going to lose, that we were going to be crushed, but we defeated them! We defeated them in an avalanche of votes that proved that the people wanted peace, freedom, and democracy in our country. [unidentified speaker shouts: "Down with the shared government!"; crowd shouts: "Down with it!"] There are some parallels that are worth observing. As it happened back in February 1990, some people are saying the same things in February 1993. At that time, based on and encouraged by polls by international reporters....[pauses] And I am going to truthfully say THE WASHINGTON POST and Univision said we were going to lose and we defeated them too! [crowd cheers] I am going to say this too. Diplomats based in Managua said we were going to lose, but we defeated them too. [crowd cheers] The government press and radio, of course, said we were going to lose, and we crushed them! [crowd cheers] That is why we are here again. That is why we returned to this square, which is no longer the Republic Square but the democracy square to tell those we defeated, as well as to those who won with our votes and deceived us, that they are wrong. Three years ago, three years ago [repeats himself] at 2100 we began to

learn we had won. We began to know we had triumphed, but more than that we began to learn we had crushed the dictatorship. [crowd cheers] This is important for each of you to keep in mind. Votes are worth more than bullets. Those who think, like some government ministers, that votes are worthless are totally and definitely wrong. Votes are worth more than bullets. Votes are worth more than bullets. [repeats himself] [crowd cheers]

When we began our campaign three and one-half years ago, we offered the Nicaraguan people a government program calling for peace, freedom, well-being, and reconciliation. That program is still waiting to be implemented, and that is why you are here today in this same Managua plaza. [crowd shouts: "They must go!"]

Some people think the government can do as it sees fit. They are wrong because government leaders can only do what the people want. [crowd shouts: "They must go"; "Long live UNO"; "UNO, UNO, UNO!"]

We want to share with you those first glorious hours of 25 February 1990. Antonio Lacayo wanted to lose and he lost because the Nicaraguan people won. [sentence as heard] We won, UNO won, the people in this plaza won. [crowd shouts: "They must go"; "They will sure as hell leave!"]

We knew we had won by a landslide throughout the country at 2100 on 25 February 1990. We knew we had won throughout the country. We knew we had achieved victory throughout the country. We knew it. Antonio Lacayo did not want the president-elect to come here to claim victory. [crowd shouts: "He must go!"] He argued that we had to give the black and red [Sandinists] some time to recover from defeat. If the people won, why did we have to give anyone time to recover? It was not until 0300 that the president was allowed to go to Bambanas Restaurant to claim victory.

But our people, these same people who are gathered here today and those who were unable to get here due to traffic jams and improper conditions, said UNO had won. It had won. It won not only in Managua but throughout Nicaragua, even in Leon where city mayors were imposed by fraud. [crowd shouts: "And now the change, the plebiscite, the plebiscite"; "They will sure as hell leave"; "They must go!"]

In those glorious days when each one of you participated, some international polls said the Sandinists were going to win. Just five days before the elections, a powerful U.S. newspaper called THE WASHINGTON POST and a well-known television newscast called Univision said we were going to be crushed, but the opposite turned out to be true. Those who were supposedly going to win were the ones who were crushed. [crowd shouts: "Long live UNO"; "Long live the future president of Nicaragua, Dr. Virgilio Godoy Reyes"; "Virgilio, Virgilio, Virgilio!"]

And after the triumph, after that glorious 25 February, after that extraordinary victory, we had even more problems. The UNO Political Council heard that an individual named Antonio Lacayo was beginning negotiations with an individual named Humberto Ortega, and that led to a protocol of transition. [crowd boos] On 7 March 1990 the UNO Political Council prohibited him, told him that he had no right negotiating the Nicaraguan people's victory. That individual named Antonio Lacayo continued negotiating with your votes without anyone having voted for him. [crowd shouts: "He must go"; "They must go!"]

And with whom did he negotiate? With whom did he negotiate the UNO votes? With another individual named Humberto Ortega. What do you want from Humberto Ortega? [crowd shouts: "To go!"; unidentified speaker shouts: "Traitors must go!"; crowd shouts: "They must go"!] Polls taken the week before elections prompted many Nicaraguans not to vote because they thought Univision and THE WASHINGTON POST were the voice of the United States, and if that were the case, the fight was lost. The people did not make a mistake. The people voted for UNO, which is how they had to vote. [unidentified speaker shouts: "UNO!"; crowd chants: "UNO!"]

We defeated the Sandinists, the pessimistic diplomats, and the reporters who said we were going to lose. We won and continue to win because we are a nation of winners, not quitters. [unidentified speaker shouts: "Change!"; crowd shouts: "It is coming!"; unidentified speaker shouts: "Referendum!"; crowd shouts: "It is coming!"] Antonio Lacayo's and Humberto Ortega's followers, however, continued wanting to implement the transition program, not the UNO program. They were wrong. They were so wrong that Nicaragua has not grown at all in the past three years of this government. They were so wrong that the opportunity to develop continues to deteriorate [nine-second break in reception-]...who celebrated on 25 February in Camoapa with the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and those who celebrated with people in Managua on 25 February. This is the difference! These are the people! This is reality! This is Nicaragua! This is freedom! This is democracy! [unidentified speaker shouts: "Who are we?"; crowd shouts: "UNO!"] This is not just the product of a betrayal of the votes cast. They must think deeply about this event. To betray votes cast is to vote for war! To betray votes cast is to support violence! To betray votes cast is to vote for repression! To betray votes cast is to vote for a dictatorship! Who is here because the people's votes were betrayed? [crowd shouts indistinct answer] Do the people want death? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Do the people want war? Do the people want a dictatorship? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Do the people want repression? [crowd shouts: "No!"] No. The people want peace, life, liberty, democracy, and a [word indistinct] life. [crowd chants indistinct slogan]

That is why [crowd cheers]... I want to invite you... [crowd chants: "UNO!"] That is why I want to salute the flag of the people of Nicaragua, which is the UNO flag! [crowd chants: "UNO!"] That is why I want to tell you that, reflecting your will, the Nicaraguan people want

dialogue, not war. But we want a true dialogue, not a lopsided dialogue, which is what they want. That is why I want to tell you that the time has come to ask the people what they want. That is why a referendum is necessary. A referendum is necessary now. [unidentified speaker shouts: "Referendum!"; crowd shouts: "Now!"]

Many young people, a very large number of young people, an enormous number of young people in Nicaragua are not here because Humberto Ortega sent them to war to die. A very large number of people want to be here next year and next month so they do not want Humberto Ortega to send them to war. We want peace. We want liberty and democracy.

We have an enormous advantage over the coupists, the traitors, and the losers: It is the people here in this square. Their deputies are here, their town council is here, their political leaders are here saying we have not lost the battle and we are ready to begin the fight. The UNO banner, that same banner that protected us in 1990, will protect us in 1993 and will always protect us. It will protect us for one reason only: UNO is a school for democracy, a school for living in communities. UNO is Nicaragua's future. [crowd shouts: "Long live UNO"] UNO, that heroic UNO, the UNO that gathers without anyone having to pay them as in Camoapa or other times before, the UNO that is here today wants to say we are ready to find understanding. We are ready for dialogue and reconciliation, but not with those who offend us, betray us, or turn their backs on the Nicaraguan people. [crowd shouts: "Plebiscite"; "Long live future president Virgilio Godoy Reyes"; "Viva"]

Fortunately our country is prodigious in the full sense of the word. It produces extraordinary people like you who are not afraid and are even less afraid of the terrorism of those who threaten us. They have been boasting the whole week that the UNO Political Council would be left alone here in this square. Now I look into this square, the park here and the one behind it, full of Nicaraguans who want a change. That is the real argument here since 25 February 1990. Does Nicaragua want a change or not? [crowd shouts: "Change, change; plebiscite, plebiscite!"] Does Nicaragua want Ortega or not? [crowd shouts: "No, no!"] Does Nicaragua want Lacayo? [crowd shouts: "No, no!"]. Let Lacayo and Ortega hear you. [crowd boos] It has been said here before: If that individual had one iota of patriotism, he would already have resigned and left the country. [Jeers]

Now—I am sure you will agree with me on this—history does not end here. This is where it begins because from now on the Nicaraguan people are going to show how much their vote is really worth and what kind of commitment they demand from those in office. Are votes more valuable than bullets? [crowd shouts: "Yes!"; chants: "UNO!"]

I am impressed to see the happiness here today. [crowd boos] The Leftist Punitive Forces [FPI] terrorists, the threats from Humberto Ortega, and all the other threats from everywhere else were of no use because we have enough pants to gather at any square in Nicaragua. Not only pants because there are enough skirts here to prove that women are brave in Nicaragua. [crowd shouts: "Long live the Nicaraguan women!"] This demonstration and today's march are just the beginning of demonstrations we are going to hold to make sure the Nicaraguan people are consulted in matters of state. We are not going to allow anyone to say that he does as he pleases. No one in Nicaragua voted for anyone to do as he pleases. [crowd boos] I would like to remind you on this afternoon of remembrance, nostalgia, and commemoration that just as the people converged upon the ballot boxes with their votes, the Nicaraguan Resistance converged in the hills long before the voting so there could be an opportunity for democracy. We must recognize that. We must recognize that effort with a big hand for all those Nicaraguans who sacrificed themselves for Nicaragua. [applause] [crowd shouts: "Long live the resistance!"]

My friends from these heroic neighborhoods of Managua, from the municipalities, and from the townships, today I have seen many friendly faces here. Thank you for coming here to tell Nicaragua that you support her. Long live UNO. [crowd shouts: "Long live UNO!"]. Long live Nicaragua. [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live Liberty. [crowd shouts: "Viva"] Long live democracy. [crowd shouts: "Viva"] Long live the people who matter. [crowd shouts: "Viva!"]

Until the time comes for us to meet again in this plaza and in others such as Chinandega, Masaya, Granada, and so many others in Nicaragua such as Chontales, Rivas, and Chontales on the Atlantic coast, the struggle continues. The truth is that everyone's effort will contribute to the final results. It is in your hands. We are here with you, and no one is going to separate us from the Nicaraguan people. Here in Managua you have heard Mayor Arnoldo Aleman. Mayor Aleman is part of the sole UNO municipal government that [words indistinct]. Nevertheless, the other UNO municipal governments throughout the nation from Region 4, Region 1, and from all the other regions are here. The mayor of Nandaime, the mayor of [name indistinct], and many other mayors are here with us today. The mayor of [name indistinct] from the mountains, mayor [name indistinct] are [words indistinct] side by side with you for one simple reason: Those mayors would not be mayors if it were not for your votes. Just as you voted for the Chamorro-Godoy ticket, you can decide to change things down the road. We must begin to realize a goal that we have: the plebiscite.

How many of you voted for Antonio Lacayo? [crowd shouts: "No one!"] How many of you want Antonio Lacayo to stay? [crowd shouts: "No one!"] How many of you voted for Humberto Ortega? [crowd shouts: "No one!"] How many of you want Humberto Ortega to stay? [crowd shouts: "No one!"] [52-second break in reception]...we are calm. Some government officials said this was a call for violence, but we are calm here. They were afraid of learning the truth. This is not the same thing that is going on in Camoapa. This is obviously not the same thing as Camoapa. Here the Nicaraguan people are

demonstrating for the truth. [crowd shouts: "UNO lives!"] To scare us they even said that the terrorist-murderer of Angel Sequiera was running lose in Managua. They were mistaken because we lost our fear a long time ago. That is why the people have come here. That is why the people—men, women, young people, even children—are here. They are here to tell those who want to terrorize and scare us that they are totally mistaken. UNO lives and the struggle continues. That is the plain truth. Long live UNO. [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Let us lift the UNO flag in a sign of victory one more time. [crowd chants: "UNO!"] Long live Nicaragua. [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live UNO. [crowd shouts: "Viva"] Long live democracy. [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live liberty. [crowd shouts: "Viva"]

Lacayo Reportedly Thinking of Leaving Post

PA0203040493 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] It has been remarked in government circles that Antonio Lacayo is thinking about leaving for London to undertake political studies. Emilio Pereira seems to be the strongest candidate to hold the Presidency Ministry position.

Lacayo is viewed as the government strongman. He has also been the target of the harshest attacks against the government, locally and internationally. Lacayo is blamed for the crisis the country is experiencing, as a result of the pact he signed with the Ortega brothers immediately after the National Opposition Union electoral victory. The country has been going through a political crisis ever since this pact was signed.

Lacayo is also blamed for the lack of justice in the country. The hundreds of political crimes committed in Nicaragua in recent years have gone unpunished because the courts continue to be controlled by the party that lost the elections.

There is increasing international pressure on the government to straighten out its situation and it seems that the highest echelons have begun to seek an elegant way out, with a possible Lacayo resignation, leaving someone loyal to him in his place.

Current Finance Minister Emilio Pereira has been mentioned as the most probable successor to Lacayo.

Former FSLN Combatants Active in Electoral Campaign

PA0103205993 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Mar 93 p 5

[Text] Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] former combatants and collaborators declared themselves the first "stronghold" in the FSLN electoral campaign which, according to the majority of former combatants, should begin this year.

Approximately 500 FSLN combatants and followers held a general assembly at Los Tayacanes recreation center in Managua on 28 February to elect their regional board of directors, which is now headed by Frank Gonzalez.

The former combatants, 80 percent of whom suffer the effects of what they describe as "some extremists' spirit of political revenge," said the FSLN can still aspire to "power" in Nicaragua.

They are convinced the FSLN will win the next elections, and for that reason they asked for greater participation from the candidates for "positions" in the National Assembly and Municipal Councils.

Jose Treminio, Ciudad Sandino-born former combatant, said the armed violence, particularly in northern Nicaragua, is not helping the country achieve national stability.

Treminio said armed violence will continue to spread as long as forces exist that are interested in "finishing off" Sandinism. He condemned political violence as a method of struggle.

Alejandro Antonio Medrano, also known as Commander Hueso, who fought in the Northern Front from 1975 to 1977, said violence results from the current administration's failure to govern properly.

Margarita Flores, a Cuba neighborhood resident, said some of the radical rightists, including Mayor Aleman and Deputy Alfredo Cesar, are chiefly responsible for political violence in the country.

Jose Medina lives in northwestern Managua. He fought in the eastern neighborhoods and is currently unemployed. Medina has been unable to find a job due to the "stigma" of being a Sandinist. In his opinion, desire for revenge leads to political violence.

In general, the combatants and followers who met on 28 February to elect their new district leaders said they oppose political violence as a matter of principle, but they think it can be explained as a function of the revenge that some politicians exact from Sandinists.

Minister Assesses San Jose IX, Chamorro Rule

PA2602191693 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal said that the Nicaraguan Government received the support of the international community during the meeting recently concluded in El Salvador held by the Central American and European Community foreign ministers. When making reference to the banana trade conflict between the producing nations and the EC, the Nicaraguan foreign minister said that the road to finding a solution to the problem remains before it is presented to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT]. In addition,

Leal said that President Chamorro's government has been burdened with many difficulties. Here is what Foreign Minister Leal said:

[Begin Leal recording] I believe significant progress can be seen in the economic communique, in the economic agreement as the bases of the Central American position. In the previous communique issued last year during San Jose VIII, what was expressed is the willingness to give a treatment....[pauses] and take into consideration the situation that the Latin American banana producing nations were experiencing. Now, however, in this communique, Central America's position is expressed with regard to the treatment our bananas should receive. We believe that all the roads are not closed. We believe that the agriculture ministers' council [word indistinct] was an error. We want to continue talking with the EC before switching to the GATT to solve the conflict regarding the banana's free access to the European market. In the case of Nicaragua, currently this issue does not affect us too much. Nevertheless, we must take into consideration that with the economic reactivation in Nicaragua, the development programs on the banana's planting, production, and exporting will be increased considerably. [end recording]

Meanwhile, upon his return from El Salvador where he participated in the San Jose IX Conference, Foreign Minister Leal assesses President Violeta Chamorro's three years in office.

[Begin Leal recording] During my meetings with the foreign ministers, I told them that we have had an unusual government situation. We have had two and a half years that have been totally different compared to other governments that express....[pauses] or who are attempting to create a new democracy, have not experienced. We have had two and a half unusual years. Why is this? Because we had to end the war. We had to halt hyperinflation. We had to reduce the army. We had to disarm the civilians. We had to do all of this in a polarized society. The list is still very long. We had to grant amnesty. We had to do another number of things. I believe that in this sense the three....[pauses] the two and a half years of President Chamorro's government have been excellent. This is my opinion. This has taken place in a setting that was totally adverse toward democracy. These are situations that hinder the institutionalization and the construction of a true democracy. We still have four years left to rule. We have the opportunity to truly consolidate and institutionalize an irreversible democratic process. [end recording]

The head of the Nicaraguan diplomats also discussed with reporters the controversies that started on 22 February between the Sandinist People's Army and the OAS's International Commission of Support and Verification [CIAV]. This controversy came about as a result of a meeting between General Humberto Ortega and Santiago Murray, CIAV-OAS mission chief in Nicaragua.

[Begin Leal recording] Well, we have to start learning how to live in democracy. Apart from this, we all have to learn to obey the courts' rulings. We also have to understand that the Army has to act professionally and get on the road to democracy. At the Foreign Ministry, we do not have any reports accusing the CIAV-OAS of being involved in the arousing of....[pauses] in public order uprising. [end recording]

Panama

Endara Addresses Legislative Assembly

PA0203025193 Panama City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1559 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Speech by President Guillermo Endara at the opening of the new period of sessions at the Legislative Assembly in Panama City—live]

[Text] President of the Legislative Assembly; President of the Supreme Court of Justice; Vice President of the Republic; Ministers and Deputy Ministers; Comptroller General; Monsignor Osvaldo Padilla, Apostolic Nuncio; heads of accredited diplomatic missions in Panama; representatives of international organizations; magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice; magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal; Attorney General; Solicitor General; Msgr. Lacunza, Auxiliary Bishop of Panama; governors and mayors; legislators; directors and managers of autonomous institutions; ladies and gentlemen.

As in previous, similar occasions, I am doing my constitutional duty of addressing you at the opening of this new legislature. For me, this is not a mere formality demanded by our Constitution. This is an excellent opportunity to study important topics on the national agenda and to clarify our government policy concerning them. This is an important aspect of the responsible democracy we are constructing and which we must stimulate in all aspects of Panamanian society. Our government system demands that we always act in regard to the people who elected us. Only in this way will we have a properly informed people who can help draft national objectives and participate in establishing strategies and measures to attain such objectives.

There is a great deal of misinformation being spead on the local level. Things have been asserted as if they were confirmed facts. Unconfirmed reports have been regarded as if they were true. Many half-truths are repeated. These half-truths tend to be regarded as authentic only through repetition. So many exaggerations and so many lies have been spoken that we cannot help but think that this is a marked intention of planting distrust and stimulating incredulity both locally and abroad. But I am not pessimistic. What I have mentioned is not just typical of our country or of our times. It is universal and is as old as mankind. To cope with this phenomenon, leaders must speak the truth at all times. Truth, be it pleasant or unpleasant, cannot be substituted

and is the best weapon that decency and responsibility can use against misinformation, which entails disloyalty.

In this spirit, I am inviting all Panamanians, at all levels of authority, as well as politicians, born leaders, and those who help to sway public opinion, to join in a great crusade for truth. We are passing through a very important stage. This is the time to create the type of country we want to leave for future generations. This is not the time to fish in troubled waters. History will call those who do to account for their actions. This is the time for acting with loyalty and with complete personal unselfishness. We have walked the right road and cannot afford to become disoriented. The first legislature, which ended in December, and the period of special sessions, which ended a few days ago, resulted in the approval of very important laws. It is only fair to recognize the efforts that the legislators have made to give Panama the necessary legislation.

I must mention the approval of the Interoceanic Region Authority Law. After a delay of more than 15 years, the Panamanian people can be sure that we have dealt in all seriouness with the topic of reverted areas and those which will revert. We have organized ourselves to make better use of this valuable patrimony, which since the beginning of the century, has been out of our control and from which we did not profit. We can be satisfied that we acted responsibly in a matter of such great national interest. I will make a brief digression here to say that the law that you approved a few days ago was published in today's gazette. For this reason, the appointments that some journalists expected have not yet been made.

In the next few days, through a decree formed by the Finance Ministry and the president, which was signed by the Executive Branch, I will make the appointments. I hope that by 4 March at the news conference I can make the appropriate announcement.

Still pending consideration and approval, nevertheless, are other bills that the Executive Branch submitted for your illustrious consideration during the past legislative session. I ask you respectfully and in honor of the harmonious cooperation that should exist among our branches to give priority attention to the Executive Branch proposals because in my opinion they deal with important topics.

I am referring, and the order in which I will list them does not signify different levels of interest, to the following proposals:

The first is the bill whereby the Public Force organic law is stipulated. It is directly related to the efforts the national government is making to strengthen public security by equipping the police force with the legal elements necessary to ensure their stability and professionalism.

Next is the bill that establishes and regulates the administrative career. Its purpose is to lend stability to suitable government employees and to encourage efficiency in the government. It constitutes the fulfillment of an electoral promise made by the government.

Next is the bill whereby the horizontal property system or departmental property units are regulated. It seeks to adjust a system that has been in place for over 20 years, whose current deficiencies affect a large number of people who live under that system. [coughs]

Then there is the bill whereby the health code is adopted. Its purpose is to establish the legal foundations to promote and protect adequate levels of health for the population.

Next is the bill whereby maritime fishing is regulated. Its purpose is to protect our maritime fauna, ensure sustainable output, and protect the legitimate rights of individuals who earn their living from this activity. It is an attempt to update legislation that dates back to 1959, considering the use of new fishing methods and techniques.

There are seven bills in which bilateral and multilateral agreements are approved, signed by the Republic of Panama within the framework of the United Nations and the OAS and with the Republic of Costa Rica. They deal with various aspects of labor law and humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, the international abduction of minors, and assistance in cases of disaster and cooperation for the development of the border shared with Costa Rica.

Next is the bill whereby the national financing fund is created and its administration defined. The purpose of this bill is to direct in an orderly manner the funds or properties recovered by the national government from private individuals who acquired them in an unlawful manner to development projects. The bill will ensure that this income will not be used for regular expenses but for investment programs.

I cannot refrain from mentioning other bills such as the one involving fraud at government institutions. It exempts Panamanian employees of the Canal Commission from civilian jurisdiction for actions carried out during the fulfillment of their official duties, excludes from the public domain an area of land in Puerto Escondido II in Colon Province, and establishes an exemption system to facilitate the establishment of businesses and measures to (?liberate) the economy.

Finally, I must mention a bill that I consider to be of immediate importance and which, therefore, has greater priority. It is the bill that reforms the electoral law that will govern the popular election system during the 1994 elections as well as in the future. The Executive Branch received from the Electoral Tribunal a reform bill prepared by the National Electoral Code Reviewing Commission.

This is the result of a multidisciplinary effort that included all the established political parties, parties in formation, universities, the Episcopal Conference, and the National Bar Association, among other groups.

This afternoon, the cabinet will hold special sessions to discuss and approve this bill. Once approved, with whatever modifications and additions are deemed appropriate, it will be presented to the Legislative Assembly in the next few days. I believe it is very important to note the advisability of having this bill discussed and approved at least one year prior to the date of the elections, which will most likely be scheduled for 8 May 1994. I make this suggestion because last-minute modifications of the electoral system have always raised suspicions. There must be a reasonable period of time to dispel any doubts that exist. We do not want to repeat the experiences of 1984 and 1989, when electoral reforms were made shortly before the elections, generating great fears that, regrettably, turned out to be justified. I do not want anything like the experiences of 1984 and 1989 to occur in 1994.

My greatest ambition, my greatest ambition [repeats himself] is to turn over the presidency to the person who wins the elections legally. To achieve this, I want to preside over a clean electoral contest. I therefore reiterate my promise to guarantee free and clean elections next year. To this end, I hereby state to my friends, my fellow party members, my political allies, the members of my cabinet, governors and mayors, and police magistrates and town councillors that under no circumstances will I agree to the use of the state apparatus or state resources to either support or harass any candidate. I solemnly promise that any action in violation of my will on this subject will be punished with the immediate dismissal of the official responsible, in addition to any actions that might be taken by the Electoral Tribunal itself.

It is my decision that all measures be taken to ensure that the next electoral contest makes local history by virtue of its honesty. I want to set a healthy example for future generations. The Electoral Code reforms that will be proposed are directed to that end.

In conclusion, as can be seen, there are 15 bills, seven international agreements, that cover a wide range of topics: public security, job stability for government officials, immigration, the family, health, education, communications, fishing industry, housing construction, incentives to the system of condominiums and similar joint ownership properties and to the establishment of commercial enterprises, border development, creation of an investment fund, fraud in public services, and electoral honesty. I must state that the incorporation of all these measures into our legal system will not only meet needs that we have felt for many years, but will also help to create the climate of stability and order that we rulers have vowed to obtain for the country.

Honorable legislators: We have begun the fiscal year with great momentum and with good omens. Our country in no way resembles what it was just three years ago. We have reconstructed institutions. We have organized the government. The economy grew in 1992 for the third consecutive year. Unemployment is decreasing. We have attacked poverty and disease. We enjoy freedom. There is no justified fear of political persecution. There is respect for the individual's dignity and rights.

I do everything in my power to remove any traces of tyranny or of arbitrary action that we all experienced in the past. I attempt to govern conscientiously and in a manner that I consider as fair. I make an effort to achieve results with everyone's cooperation or at least with that of the majority. Given that this task is gigantic, it requires a great deal of support and all the cooperation it can receive. A specific example of what I am saying is the process that concluded with the auspicious approval by this Legislative Assembly of the law that creates the Interoceanic Region Authority. This work was initiated in 1990 by the ad hoc commission, in 1991 the consultation with the political parties was undertaken, in 1992 the draft bill was drawn up, and in 1993 its final approval was achieved after amendments were made by the Legislative Assembly. This process has been characterized by consultations, the incorporation of good ideas, wholesome negotiations, and the constant concern to safeguard the nation's highest interests. We are all participants in that success.

There are still areas of apprehension that are a cause of concern for all Panamanians such as crime, drug trafficking, unemployment, and poverty, which demand our continuous and careful attention as well as their correction. These injustices are not exclusive to Panama. All the nations in the world are suffering these injustices in one way or another, to a greater or a lesser extent. These are universal concerns. The solutions being promoted are also global. Nations are joining forces to fight against drug trafficking, which knows no boundaries.

The international financial institutions are beginning to acknowledge that economic development programs should not forget the human factor, particularly the plight of the poor and the destitute. Currently, as a fundamental point of a social agenda, there is talk about balanced growth to attack poverty more dynamically. I am pleased that my government, totally convinced of its policy, has been implementing it with great effort for three years. I feel comforted and I am encouraged, as I have remarked, that the international institutions are currently more conscious of our needs.

From the very beginning, the government's economic policy has considered it necessary to redefine the public sector's role and the distribution of its expenses. We have set out the gradual increases in public investments and a decrease in operation costs. In this way, greater resources can be channeled toward economic infrastructures and toward the most needy social sectors.

We have been making a conscious and progressive effort that will allow us to earmark a third of the budgeted funds for public investments through the year 2000. Of the portion earmarked, almost half must be investments geared toward social sectors and particularly the most needy. Nevertheless, it has been estimated that the government will be unable to finance with its own

resources even half of all the required programs. This means that the minimum balance, that is more than half, must come from international financing. I must reiterate to all my associates that these plans and projects must go hand in hand with decided attitudes and flexible mechanisms that will expedite social investment to which we have committed ourselves.

Social segments requiring these investments this decade have been carefully analyzed. We have identified priority areas in order to reduce poverty among the poorest. There are serious deficiencies in health, education, nutrition, and housing. I will only mention a few ongoing programs that will be expanded as we manage to reduce public sector operational expenditures:

As for nutrition, we plan to eliminate severe malnutrition among children under five. We plan to reduce the mortality rate to 20 out of 1,000 infants born alive by 1995. In the health area, our goals are to expand the immunization program by 100 percent and to eradicate measles by the end of this decade. We also want to prevent the emergence of polio and diphtheria in this country.

We want to improve sanitary conditions in rural areas by expanding the sewage system by 85 percent and by making potable water available to 83 percent of the population in these areas by 1951 [as heard]. We plan to reduce the illiteracy rate to 7.4 percent by 1994, especially among Indian women. We want education to reach 100 percent of children at the primary school level by 2000 and to reduce the dropout rate, which is attributable to poor performance.

We want to build about 47,500 houses from 1992 to 1994 for middle and low-income segments through the New Life project, home improvement programs, and by expanding the installation of public utilities. There are ongoing multisector development projects in rural and urban areas affected by extreme poverty. These projects aim to generate revenues and jobs. These efforts are made through organizations such as the Social Emergency Fund. We want to expand this coverage.

These are only examples of the government's short-term programs and goals. State resources alone are insufficient to finance them. These are expensive programs, demanding huge budgets. As I pointed out, we need considerable foreign cooperation from various international agencies, including the UN system, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank. Our normalization of relations with these organizations has made this cooperation and its future expansion possible.

I must add that we need the private sector, nongovernment organizations, and the community in general to play an active role in this regard. It is obvious that we will eliminate more complex problems affecting society at large—such as unemployment, crime, drug use, and environmental deterioration—to the extent that we manage to meet the basic needs of the population.

Government economic measures, along with programs targeted to the poorest, should reduce poverty by 50 percent for 30 to 35 percent of the population by century's end. This is the realistic overall goal of our government policy that is based on the amount of resources available to it at home and abroad.

This panorama of needs, clear policies, and specific government actions leads us to the following conclusions. First, contrary to groundless statements and charges, the national government has been conducting a coherent and sustained policy to upgrade the living standard of the poor. It has done so through a careful social and economic investment plan, which goes beyond the end of my mandate in 1994. The improvement of public finances and public debt structuring is part of this plan. Its goal is to obtain a constant flow of funds to sustain that policy.

Second, the budget for physical and financial investments for 1993, which exceeds 700 million balboas, has been carefully prepared within the parameters of this national policy to stregthen economic social infrastructure projects. We cannot, therefore, divert funds that are earmarked for this purpose to increase operating expenses. In this respect, any attempt to raise public sector salaries, no matter how justified it may seem, must yield to the higher priority given to investments for social and economic infrastructure. We must develop the country, which belongs to everyone, and control malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, and the lack of jobs and decent housing of so many fellow countrymen who are needy and forsaken before we can begin to think of raising salaries. Those earning a salary have at least a source of income, whereas some Panamanians are not adequately fed, cannot read or write, are ill, have no housing, and have no steady jobs. Those persons do not have any possibility of overcoming their misfortune unless the government lends them a friendly hand. For that reason, I want to appeal to the conscience of public employees and the understanding of the people in general. This the reality we must face. Nobody.... [pauses] Nothing, nothing [repeats himself] would be more pleasant for politicking and electioneering purposes than to order wage increases. We could do it to reap illusive victories and let the next government bear the consequences. But it would not be consistent and it would involve a regression in our programs to eradicate poverty and the pockets of extreme poverty.

In our condition as a responsible government, we must make decisions and take actions. We choose the fairest and wisest path, in the long run the path that is best for the entire country. If we do not do this, we would be unable to reduce poverty to the levels we plan by the year 2000. Thus, my government will not grant salary increases. Instead, it will devote all possible resources—which are still not enough—to social projects and programs with proven economic results for the nation.

This policy, and not the opposite, will help us obtain the foreign resources needed to complete the financing we require.

It is illogical—and we cannot do it—to set aside large sums for salary increases on one hand, and on the other to seek greater foreign financing to fight poverty. We could convince no one of our genuine political will if we are not willing to meet our own quota of efforts and resources.

I am not saying that there are no government employees who deserve raises, government servants who have been denied these raises for a long time. But the truth is that the only way to solve problems and to take care of all our needs is by establishing priorities and proceeding step by step in accordance with a preconceived plan.

I must make an exception. I think it is only fair, if we are to follow the principles that move my government. Despite our budget limitations, limitations I have explained, I hope to see that no public employees will earn less than $200 per month in the districts of Panama, San Miguelito, Colon, Arraijan, and Chorrera.

With regard to the rest of the country, if it cannot be the same, I would like to guarantee a minimum of $175 per month for public servants.

We have been taking these measures in several public offices by increasing salaries for the lower echelons. The Education Ministry is the next government sector to undergo adjustments so that there will be no positions with salaries lower than those I mentioned. Within our possibilities, we are trying to make justice for the neediest.

Mr. President, honorable legislators, I wish you big success in the legislature you are beginning today. I hope that it will produce abundant beneficial legislation for the country. This is the year before the election. We must protect our system of government, now more than ever. We must set a good example, particularly to the young people who are watching us.

For my part, I will continue my policy of full respect for the separation of the government branches. With this separation, we avert the danger of returning to the past.

The Judicial Branch and the Attorney General's Office must administer justice and investigate crimes. The Comptroller General's Office is tasked with supervising the correct use of public funds. The Electoral Tribunal is in charge of everything that concerns the electoral process. You, honorable legislators, must approve the laws the country needs for its overall development. In addition, the legislature is the political forum. The president and his cabinet of ministers are in charge of running the public administration and all the state services.

Gathering all or some of these duties under the will or influence of a single person or group of individuals, like in the past, is a dictatorship. No one in his right mind wants to return to that because it is a deformation that propitiates the violation of human rights and the rights of citizens.

I will continue to guard faithfully the people's will. Praying to God for his protection, I urge you to continue working, united, for the reconstruction of Panama. Thank you. [applause]

Local Union To Contest Constitutionality of ARI Law

PA2602201293 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Feb 93 p 1A

[Report by Arnulfo Barroso Watson]

[Excerpt] On 25 February, President Guillermo Endara signed the law that created the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI), while Panamanians employed on the U.S. military bases in Panama announced that they would file a lawsuit next week at the Supreme Court of Justice alleging the unconstitutionality of the law.

Endara suspended his Cabinet Council to sign the ARI law, which he described as important for the country's historical development. He urged all Panamanians to decide their own future through this law.

After 34 days of extraordinary sessions and bitter debates between pro-government and opposition factions, the Legislative Assembly approved Bill No. 16 (containing 67 articles), which regulates the use of properties reverted within the framework of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Meanwhile, Local 907 Secretary General Ray Bishop warned that between 1 and 2 March, Local 907 will file a lawsuit of unconstitutionality against the law that creates the ARI, which it feels was hastily approved without any consultation.

According to Bishop, the lawsuit will be based on the fact that the ARI takes into consideration all of the properties that have been reverted and those that are to be reverted, while it fails to consider "what matters the most," that is, the human resources who work in the canal area. [passage omitted]

Comptroller Seeks Renegotiation of Military Bases

PA2602002393 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Feb 93 p 1

[Article by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles hinted at the possibility that Panama could negotiate a new treaty with the United States regarding the military bases currently occupied by the U.S. Southern Command.

The comptroller made the statements during the most recent meeting held by the U.S. Army Association [Asociacion del Ejercito de los EE.UU.] at the Amador Officers Club, an event that gathered U.S. military officers and civilians, as well as businessmen of various nationalities living in Panama.

"We Panamanians will have to face a fundamental problem: the status of the military bases," Carles said. We are all "aware of the need to review this delicate matter," but there is fear in facing reality and the effects of abandoning the installations, he said.

According to the comptroller, far-reaching changes are approaching and no attempts are being made to do or say anything. Only Panamanians who work in the bases and certain "courageous politicians have given their opinions on the matter," the comptroller said.

Ray Bishop, secretary general of Local 907 Armed Forces Employees Union, and Leo Gonzalez, who is a member of Carles' party, are the leading promoters of the need to renegotiate the presence of the Southern Command bases beyond the year 2000.

According to Ruben Dario Carles, the most important point is to know what is the "best moment to negotiate" and not fear a discussion and internal review of the matter.

Time is running short and we cannot wait until the last minute to "improvise positions," according to the comptroller, who said Panamanians must "begin to review" the topic of the military bases so we can be prepared, "if the time comes to go to the negotiating table."

According to Carles, that is a problem that must be viewed with "realism and courage." The more information we have and the more debates we hold on the subject among all sectors of Panamanian society, the better it will be for Panama.

The comptroller said that to discuss the future of the bases, we must look at what other countries under similar situations have done. We must look at the characteristics of Panama, what the Panamanians want, as well as the current situation and the future outlook of our geopolitical and international relations.

The Pentagon announced recently that during the period 1993-95 it intends to reduce the 10,000 troops it has on the Southern Command bases by 40-50 percent.

Nearly 8,000 employees work on U.S. bases and they earn salaries in the range of $140 million. The main U.S. military installations in Panama are: Howard Air Force Base, the Galeta Island complex, Rodman Naval Station, Fort Clayton, Fort Sherman Jungle Operations Training Center, and the Quarry Heights headquarters.

President Guillermo Endara and Foreign Minister Julio Linares have previously said the current administration has decided not to negotiate a new treaty on bases with Washington.

Assembly President States Views

PA2802171293 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 28 Feb 93 p 8D

[Report by Arnulfo Barroso Watson]

[Text] Legislative Assembly President Lucas Zarak has warned that the renegotiation of the presence of U.S. military bases in the Canal area depends more on the United States than on Panama.

"If the United States fails to state any interest in renegotiating the presence of the military bases, then Panama can hardly propose that it wants the U.S. bases," he specified.

Comptroller General Ruben D. Carles recently addressed the U.S. Army Association and warned that Panama must know the best moment to negotiate the issue.

The Legislative Assembly president said Panama will have to seek other alternatives to counter the unemployment that will result when the U.S. bases are dismantled. He recalled the Assembly has already approved a draft law that creates multisector zones to counter the situation.

Local 907 has strongly opposed the withdrawal of the U.S. military forces, arguing that a plebiscite should be held so the people can decide if the U.S. military forces should withdraw.

PDC Opposes Privatization of Utility Services

PA0103151993 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The second period of ordinary sessions begins at the Legislative Assembly this week, with 13 bills on the agenda for discussion. Among them is the controversial bill to privatize the National Institute of Telecommunications, INTEL, which is opposed by many sectors including the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], as Legislator Jose Antonio Sossa explains.

[Begin recording] I expressed my personal views on this issue a long time ago, but I am pleased that the party has adopted an official position against the privatization of INTEL, the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE], and the National Water and Sanitation Institute [IDAAN]. The party is not opposed to privatization as there are institutions that could very well be privatized, although the government has not done a good job of conducting privatizations. An example of this is Air Panama, which proves the government's ineptitude and irresponsibility.

This, however, is not why we are against the privatization of INTEL, IRHE, and IDAAN. We are opposed in these cases because these institutions provide the community with services they would not receive if they were privatized. In addition, the privatization of these institutions will deprive the state of the economic independence it has

derived from them. The state makes annual profits from these institutions, which preclude its having to request bank loans. These institutions have given the state the capability to provide services to the public, which are not only efficient and economic, but profitable.

Thus, it would be illogical for the state to deprive itself of these institutions for the benefit of the private sector. There are individuals in this government who are conducting a pirate-like campaign to implement this policy. [end recording]

EEC Signs Cooperation Agreement in San Salvador

PA2802034393 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Feb 93 p 2A

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares and Manuel Marin Gonzalez, representative of the EEC General Directorate for America, have signed the "Social Emergency Fund Cooperation Program" agreement, during the Central American foreign minister's meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador.

The EEC assigned $5.6 million (4.6 million ECU's [European Currency Unit]) for the implementation of this program, and has also agreed to support the FES [Special Social Fund] in promoting rural microenterprise development.

The cooperation agreement also includes the construction of basic infrastructure, the promotion of investment activities in the more promising production areas, and technical and financial assistance for nongovernmental organizations.

Social infrastructure projects shall focus on critical poverty areas directed at improving nutrition, health, education, and housing conditions.

The EEC will send two experts to complete a three-year tour, a specialized assistant director for development programs and a technical expert in rural credit and financial programs.

The EEC commitment is until 31 December 1997, and its specific contribution to Panama will be $2.2 million.

U.S. Ambassador's Remarks on Corruption Viewed

PA0203020693 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 1 Mar 93 p 2-A

[Article by Carlos Antonio Harris Jimenez: "Of Course There Is Corruption"]

[Text] The title of this article is a reply that a well-known weekly magazine attributed to U.S. Ambassador to Panama Deane Hinton, who is accustomed to meddling constantly in our country's internal affairs with the government's apparent approval.

When the Panamanian Bishops Conference, echoing the feelings of the Panamanians, issued a statement that dealt with, among other issues, corruption in the government, the president and some of his ministers were offended and bravely confronted the bishops demanding they point out the corrupt actions and reveal the names of the culprits. It is evident that President Endara is trying to win the title of the most blind and deaf person in Panama.

Ambassador Hinton, however, went further than our bishops when he referred to the government's ability to survive if uncertainty over the scope of corruption slowly undermines public trust in democracy. Fortunately, Panamanians understand clearly that the problem is not democracy but our current leaders, for whom democracy has a totally different meaning than for the larger majority.

Although with a completely different intention from that of our church, Hinton has referred to a truth more evident than the sun, which only the blind cannot see. We are waiting for the president and his brave ministers to be as offended by Hinton as they were by the bishops and to call him to a meeting so he can provide the names of corrupt officials. Such names are already public knowledge but they cannot be mentioned by the Panamanians because they do not have the U.S. ambassador's immunity.

To cite an example, the same issue of the aforementioned magazine included an article on the nepotism being practiced overtly by a minister who is very close to President Endara because of his political affiliation. As we can see, corruption is not only being criticized by opposition politicians, Mr. President. You should dare to appoint a commission comprised of civic associations and professional organizations to investigate corruption in your government. It must be made clear that our church is a responsible and trustworthy interpreter of the situations affecting our people.

We are waiting for the president and his ministers to question Ambassador Hinton.

Argentina

Menem Names Oscar Camilion as Defense Minister

PY0103191493 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Commentary by Pedro Olmo Ochoa]

[Excerpt] The president himself announced it: The future defense minister will be Oscar Camilion. Camilion's designation was confirmed by Greece's Ambassador Oscar Roger, who talked with Camilion. Camilion accepted, and then the president called him to discuss the matter. Camilion now is the UN commissioner in Cyprus. He has held this post for the past four years.

Camilion was also foreign minister during President Roberto Eduardo Viola's administration. He also was Argentine ambassador to Brazil. This is the extent of his diplomatic career. Camilion has practiced law and has been involved in politics for many years. He is around 60 or 62 years old. In the 1960's he was CLARIN's chief editor. [passage omitted]

Di Tella Considers Condor Missile Issue Closed

PY0203120493 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Santa Rosa (La Pampa), 1 March (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella stated today that the subject of the dismantling of the Condor missile is "over" and pointed out that "we have already finished with the subject, which will be broached at the world meeting of the missile club slated for this coming week."

Di Tella made this brief statement at the local airport, where he arrived with President Carlos Menem and most of the other cabinet ministers.

Upon being asked about the dialogue with UCR [Radical Civic Union] leader Mario Lozada, Di Tella answered that "we must reach agreement with the leading opposition party in those areas which can turn the government's policies into national ones."

Di Tella also said that "there are many points we have to discuss, and I think it is well worth our while to do so. Likewise, I recently appeared before the Senate to explain the aforementioned government policies, and we reached broad agreement on them."

Brazil

Franco Accepts Finance Minister Resignation

PY0103130093 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco yesterday accepted Finance Minister Paulo Haddad's resignation. Haddad called President Franco from Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais State, to tender his resignation. Franco immediately invited Eliseu Rezende to head the Finance Ministry. Before this appointment, Rezende was president of Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company, Inc.].

Last night President Franco met with several ministers to brief them on his decision and to call for the cooperation of all government officials. According to President Franco, the top priority of government remains to fight inflation.

New Finance Minister Rejects Shock Economic Measures

PY0203040193 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Eliseu Rezende, an engineer who has become the new Brazilian finance minister, today stated that inflation must be reduced as soon as possible without any economic shock package.

Rezende, a personal friend of President Itamar Franco, has left the chairmanship of Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company] to take the ministerial post.

The new finance minister is not an economist: He is a civil engineer with a doctoral degree in mathematics from the University of New York.

Rezende has served as chairman of the National Highway Department, as transport minister during the Figueiredo administration, as chairman of the Furnas Electric Power Plants, and as chairman of Eletrobras already during the Franco administration.

Rezende, who is 64, was born in Oliveira, Minas Gerais State. He is married and has two children.

Upon his arrival at the Finance Ministry this afternoon, Rezende time and again stated that there will be no shock economic treatment. He said:

[Begin Rezende recording] There are no plans. There will be work, efficiency, and austerity. [end recording]

Rezende has already presided this afternoon over his first working meeting at the Finance Ministry. He met for nearly 30 minutes with outgoing minister Paulo Haddad, and managed to persuade the leading economic advisers to remain in their posts until a decision is made on the new economic team.

Upon his installation, Rezende stated that he and President Franco will act as a single person in light of their 30-year friendship. He said that Franco will act both as president and as minister. They plan to formulate an effective policy of economic stabilization. Rezende said:

[Begin Rezende recording] We are not planning to control or to freeze prices, or to adopt any shock measures. Inflation should be fought with political decision, with efforts, austerity, and production. Inflation cannot be defeated in three months. Inflation must be gradually reduced as soon as possible. [end recording]

One of Rezende's main engagements tomorrow will be a meeting with IMF representatives, who came to Brazil to meet the now former minister Paulo Haddad. Today, the IMF experts met with government economic advisers. They are seeking to implement a $2.1 billion loan to Brazil.

Central Bank Chairman Resigns, To Remain Until Replaced

PY0203033393 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Central Bank [BC] Chairman Gustavo Loyola has tendered his resignation along with that of Finance Minister Paulo Haddad. Loyola will stay on in his post until a successor is appointed.

The resignation of both Hadoad and Loyola was provoked by the same cause—that is, President Itamar Franco's appointment of new members of the BC Board of Directors.

Franco appointed Helio Ribeiro Oliveira, former president of the Brasilia Regional Bank and former director of the BC Rural Loan Department, as director for rules and programs of the BC. Ribeiro was appointed at the request of former minister Aureliano Chaves.

Franco appointed Jose Roberto Novaes, a BC expert who had worked with the IMF for 15 years, as director of the BC Foreign Department; and Luiz Fernando Vitor, who for a few months served as chairman of the Espirito Santo State Bank, as director of the BC Auditing Department. Vitor, who until last year served as an adviser to the Democratic Labor Party, was appointed at the request of his party.

Franco appointed Antonio Lopes Sa as the BC administrative director. Lopes Sa, who is a professor at the University of Minas Gerais, is a personal friend of President Itamar Franco.

Another political appointment made by Franco is that of former Deputy Paes de Andrade, who is the new director of the BC Rural Loan Department.

The new list of appointments has already been submitted for approval to the Senate.

At the request of Finance Minister Eliseu Rezende, Loyola will stay on in his post until the new BC chairman is appointed.

Government Completes Draft Bill on Industrial Property

PY0203015893 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Feb 93 Economy Section p 1

[Article by Marta Salomon]

[Text] Brasilia—After weeks of secret discussions, the government has already finished the draft of the new bill on industrial property. Adapted to President Itamar Franco's concerns over national industry, the draft of the proposal, which was obtained by O ESTADO, rejects the retroactive recognition of patents and establishes mechanisms to prevent "abuse" or "excessive monopoly" by the patents' owners. The bill seeks to end extraneous pressure on "industrial piracy" conducted on chemical products and pharmaceuticals by recognizing patents for a 20-year period.

For more than two years the Brazilian Government has been stalling U.S. threats to implement trade sanctions by making repeated promises to recognize the patents on chemical products and pharmaceuticals. The working team appointed by President Itamar Franco admits the need to recognize the products' patents and the microorganisms produced by genetic engineering, and has a very favorable opinion about the possibility that Brazil might adhere to international trade rules.

"The Brazilian policy of not recognizing pharmaceuticals patents did not result in a strong, competitive national pharmaceuticals sector," the document drafted by experts of the Science and Technology Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, and the Industry and Trade Ministry concludes.

Innovations

Without precise data on the foreign policy trends of the Clinton administration, Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso quickly confirmed to U.S. officials that the Brazilian Government is interested in seeing a new law on industrial property approved. Minister Cardoso yesterday said: "I do not know what the U.S. Government will do, but I hope the Democrats do not adopt protectionist policies. We will discuss the bill with the sole concern of serving our interests well in the current phase of making our economies more international."

In one of the most innovative aspects of the proposal, the document suggests the recognition of patents immediately one year after the law is published. This innovation is a midway point between the 10-15 year "period of transition" supported by the national industries and allowed by GATT, and the retroactive recognition of patents known as the "pipeline" [preceding word in English]. "The decision to not grant the pipeline would be balanced by not adopting the period of transition," the document handed to the seven ministers' approval states.

Following an international trend, the proposal contemplates recognition of patents for 20 years, without making any distinction between national and foreign inventions. The increase to three years for the period of enforcement of the national patents has been criticized as an "incentive that might create serious problems for the country."

The government supports the adoption of mechanisms to "prevent possible abuse" by the patent owners. The proposal contemplates the possibility of compulsorily registrating a product, in the people's interest, when there is evidence of economic power abuse, lack or

insufficient exploitation of a product, failure to meet the market needs, or a situation of calamity.

Another mechanism proposed to prevent "excessive effects of monopoly" is the principle of international exhaustion of rights. This mechanism prevents the owner of a patent from blocking import by Brazil of a product that already has its marketing authorized in another country.

Transportation Minister Alberto Goldman (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party), who participated in the last discussion over the text of the bill as former president of the Chamber of Deputies commission that studied the text of the bill for two years, said: "The new proposal better protects the national industry." Goldman denies, however, that the new bill is "nationalist." He commented: "We are simply avoiding being more regal than the king by giving more than the multinational industries called for." According to the minister, the bill's text will undergo a "conclusive" debate on 2 March.

The Government leader to the Chamber of Deputies and People's Socialist Party deputy for Pernambuco State, Robert Freire, also criticized the text of the bill on patents that is being debated at the Chamber. He said: "It grants too many concessions."

Colombia

'Trusted' Escobar Associate Surrenders to Authorities

PA0203022893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] William Cardenas Calle, a trusted associate of Medellin Cartel leader Pablo Escobar, surrendered to the authorities on 1 March. Cardenas Calle is accused of setting off three car bombs in Santa Fe de Bogota. Cardenas Calle, who is also known as Lenguas, is being held at the Itagui prison. The police said he directed three bomb attacks in the capital which killed 21 people and injured more than 100.

Pepes Group Kills Pablo Escobar Associate

PA0203031993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] The Pepes [Persecuted by Pablo Escobar] group continues its series of attacks. Luis Guillermo Londono White was shot to death in Medellin on 1 March. His body showed signs of having been tortured. Meanwhile, the Prosecutor General's Office has issued an arrest warrant for his brother, Diego Londono White, on charges of being linked to drug trafficking. Here is a report by Carlos Mario Giraldo:

[Begin recording] [Giraldo, in progress] ....individuals with military uniforms and DAS [Administrative Department of Security] arm bands had taken Luis Guillermo Londono White from his apartment on the morning of 1 March. They told his son he was being taken for questioning. His body was left in a semirural area of Medellin. A placard of the clandestine Pepes was found near his body. They accused him of being responsible for kidnappings and of being Pablo Escobar's front man. This is the Pepes' second attack on the Londono White family in recent days. On 27 February, the Pepes burned a ranch in Llano Grande, where Diego Londono was staying. He escaped and later charged that police personnel are the real members of the Pepes.

[Diego Londono] They were corporals, lieutenants, and sergeants, using all the respect that authorities command.

[Giraldo] A month ago, Luis Guillermo and Diego were arrested on orders of the Prosecutor General's Office to investigate their participation in one of the 30 proceedings against Pablo Escobar. Diego had previously been linked to the drug trafficker because he was allegedly the one who built Escobar's houses. The name of his brother, Santiago, appeared in the 1984 talks between former President Alfonso Lopez and the Ochoa and Escobar brothers in Panama to negotiate their surrender to the Belisario Betancur government.

Diego Londono has gotten in touch with the Prosecutor General's Office to announce he will surrender to the Antioquia Regional Prosecutor's Office in the next few hours. [end recording]

Another Escobar Associate Killed

PA0203050893 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Report by Beatriz Garcia from Medellin]

[Text] Pablo Escobar's key man in Middle Magdalena was killed on the evening of 1 March by the [words indistinct] in western Medellin. He was Hernan Henao, alias HH, who served for many years as manager of the Napoles farm in Puerto Triunfo, which was famous for a zoo of exotic animals exhibited to tourists there.

Hernan Henao was said to be in charge of managing cocaine laboratories and shipping drugs abroad from Middle Magdalena. He was also said to be responsible for Pablo Escobar's security when Escobar toured the area. HH was the successor of Mario Henao Vallejo, Escobar's brother-in-law, who was killed during a national police operation at El Oro Farm, Puerto Triunfo, on 23 November 1989.

A prosecutor will proceed to examine the body of the man for whom the national government had offered a 100 million peso reward for information leading to his capture. Strict security measures are being implemented at the intersection of 79th Avenue and 46th Street, the site of the operation. The area was cordoned off by the police elite corps and Army.

Editorial Questions Clinton's Economic Plan

PA2702213593 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 23 Feb 93 p 3A

[Editorial: "President Clinton, Statesman or Populist"?]

[Text] The "show" went off just as President Clinton wanted. A very well-rehearsed and well-delivered speech caused the melodramatic effect he sought from an audience whose reactions were more emotional than those of any political group in a tropical country.

Now that a few days have passed and the reverberation of lengthy applause has ended, it is good to reflect on what Mr. Clinton proposed and demanded. Those of us who heard his speech found that it contained very different facets. Some of his positions were completely conservative and reminded us of statements made by Mrs. Thatcher at the beginning of her government: Austerity in spending and promises of cutbacks in bureaucratic and defense spending, especially in Social Security. Meanwhile, a considerable part of his program has a clearly populist flavor that immediately brings to mind the typical style of an Alan Garcia. His demagogic offers certainly prompted the loudest ovations.

As for his plan being serious and well developed, there can be no doubt that the goal to reduce drastically the growing fiscal deficit stands out. We must not forget, however, that the huge U.S. public debt is the result of the demands made by a Congress that has had a Democratic majority for the past many legislatures. The struggle between Republican presidents and Congress is traditional, the latter attempting to increase public spending while the White House struggles to reduce it. It will not be easy for Mr. Clinton to maintain the support of influence-peddling representatives and senators (they have them too) in order to realize the budget reductions. What he fails to accomplish in these first months, he will not accomplish at all.

The proposals whereby the gigantic cost of the entire Social Security system would be reduced are as sensible as they are urgent. The manner in which this will be done was not clearly explained. The president mentioned that a large reduction in medical and paramedical fees will be requested, as well as a reduction in the costs of all hospital services. Is this viable? Does he plan to achieve a social agreement of sorts through persuasion or coercion? The first seems utopistic. The second will create adverse reactions of unimaginable repercussions.

For Colombians it will be very interesting to follow step-by-step the development of the plan to reduce Social Security spending. We may learn good lessons because we have the same problem, but on a smaller scale—enormous costs and low coverage. What this proves is that no state can offer its citizens plans that will destroy its own economic structure. "There are no free lunches." Someone must pay. Uncontrolled Social Security services have created the fiscal deficit, the public debt and, in the end, the highest taxes.

The official departure from campaign promises, which has turned into a catalog of higher taxes on big businesses, taxpayers who earn more than $30,000 annually, and a new charge (30 percent) on energy costs regardless of the energy source, will put a crunch on millions of taxpayers. Republican criticism—expressed among others by former President Ronald Reagan—to the effect that the government will take money from the people who have and still are using it to benefit the economy and turn it over to individuals who will waste it, will have a deep impact. The Republicans do not understand the logic of promising a reduction of 100,000 bureaucratic government jobs while offering to concurrently create 30,000 jobs by spending a scandalous amount of money; billions of dollars. This clearly Keynesian proposal does not seem justified at a time when the private sector would be willing to react positively if given incentives for investment; an atmosphere quite different to that of the years of the Great Depression.

President Clinton has made a tremendous pledge to U.S. citizens by making so many promises to infants, children, pregnant women, university students, the middle class, and retirees.

It is not often that we hear programs that are so ambitious or so vague as to how they will be accomplished. A high percentage of unemployed individuals, workers, and the American middle class have expressed their approval of the program, which means that they have hopes that it will be fulfilled. Can this program be executed? Can it be fulfilled? Senator George Mitchell, the Republican minority leader [name and party affiliation as published], said slyly that Mr. Clinton does not seem aware that he is no longer a presidential candidate. Mitchell said that Clinton's speech was the speech of a politician in the middle of a campaign, not the speech of a head of state.

In keeping with tradition, on this occasion international policy was not mentioned once and there was only a fleeting but discouraging reference to the position the President will adopt with regard to foreign trade; he will defend the American worker. We know this will translate into high tariffs, quotas, and the creation of obstacles for our exports such as the famous antidumping measures. We must not get our hopes up; the new administration will not wage a big battle to help the less developed countries. All of its efforts will be centered on domestic issues.

Latin America was not mentioned. We do not exist in the President's plans. We are still relegated and condemned to being the backyard that is increasingly overgrown with brush due to a lack of care.

Foreign Minister on Venezuelan Coupist Officers

PA0103210593 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin Posada by news program director Dario Arizmendi and unidentified reporter; place not given—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] On 1 March, Colonel Higinio Castro and Captain Oscar Navas, both from Venezuela, will leave Pasto, Colombia by land and travel to Ecuador, which has granted them political asylum. This is the result of a negotiated solution which took place after the Colombian Government decided not to deport them to Venezuela.

Colonel Castro and Captain Navas have been accused of participating in the 27 November coup attempt against Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

Why did Colombia decide to take them to Ecuador? Why did Colombia let them leave? We are asking this question to Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin Posada.

Good morning, Mrs. Foreign Minister!

[Sanin] Good morning!

[Arizmendi] Why was that decision made?

[Sanin] After the Department of Security [DAS] announced its decision to deport the two arrested officers, the officers appealed to the proper authorities in an effort to avoid deportation.

On 25 February, the arrested officers' attorney went to the Colombian Foreign Ministry and requested political asylum. The Foreign Ministry immediately began analyzing the request. The Venezuelan officers had also requested political asylum from the Ecuadoran government. The Ecuadoran Government granted them asylum and we had no objection to the Venezuelans leaving for Ecuador as exiles.

[Arizmendi] Isn't this position somewhat contradictory?

[Sanin] In what sense?

[Arizmendi] Mrs. Foreign Minister, initially you had announced that the Colombian Government would be prepared to deliver the two Venezuelan officers to Venezuela. This produced many reactions and a public controversy.

[Sanin] What you are saying is very inexact.

[Arizmendi] Oh!

[Sanin] First: The decision to deport them was adopted by DAS, as the law establishes. It was DAS who issued a resolution ordering their deportation. At that time I was in San Salvador and I informed the Venezuelan foreign minister about the decision adopted by DAS. The Venezuelan officers appealed the DAS decision to prevent their deportation and requested political asylum in Colombia. The Colombian Foreign Ministry immediately began analyzing the request, taking into consideration the 1954 agreement on political asylum signed by Venezuela and Colombia.

The Venezuelan officers also requested political asylum from Ecuador. The Ecuadoran Government granted them asylum. We have no objection to them leaving for Ecuador as exiles.

[Arizmendi] While this was happening, did the Venezuelan Government formally ask Colombia to have the two officers sent to Venezuela?

[Sanin] No. The Colombian Government received no extradition request or any kind of pressure. We had no request of any kind to have these two officers sent to Venezuela.

[Arizmendi] The Colombian decision was adopted quickly. I remember last week, during a news conference, you said, Mrs. Foreign Minister, that the decision on these two officers would be announced this week by the Foreign Ministry.

[Sanin] We began studying the asylum request immediately. I think we would have had an announcement on this matter either today or tomorrow. However, they asked Ecuador for asylum and Ecuador has granted them asylum and we, since there is no longer an issue to discuss, will no longer have to decide on the matter.

[Arizmendi] But Mrs. Foreign Minister, how is it possible that these foreigners entered Colombia with phony documents, and nothing will happen to them?

[Sanin] This has to do with the political asylum matter. Article 5 of the 1954 agreement states that when a person considered to be persecuted for political reasons enters another country in an irregular or clandestine fashion, the circumstance is envisaged in the framework of the political crime for which that person is being persecuted. Therefore, asylum covers the forging of documents matter. Persons who are being politically persecuted enter another territory in an irregular fashion because of the fact that they are being persecuted.

[Arizmendi] Does this means that the Colombian Government has granted the two officers the status of politically persecuted people?

[Sanin] The Colombian Government has abstained from making any decision because the Ecuadoran Government has already granted the officers political asylum.

[Reporter] There are reports that there are another 15 Venezuelan soldiers who were involved in the Venezuelan coup attempt. They could decide to request political asylum. Based on your interpretation of this issue, would Colombia grant political asylum in a case like this?

[Sanin] Since this is no longer an issue, we are not going to discuss military officers Higinio Castro and Oscar Navas. We did not make a decision on this. We were analyzing the matter. Certainly there are international treaties on political asylum between Venezuela and Colombia. This asylum is practically a right when specific political circumstances exist.

[Arizmendi] Our question has to do with soldiers. According to one interpretation, political asylum does not apply to military personnel. You said before that in the case involving the two soldiers who entered Colombia with phony documents, that the phony documents situation was envisaged within the political crime that was committed. Does this mean Colombia views their actions as a political crime? If other soldiers request political asylum, could asylum be granted?

[Sanin] [words indistinct] We find that prior to 1954, the Colombian Foreign Ministry's doctrine stated that coupists were not to be given political asylum under any circumstances. Treaties based on this doctrine did not exclude coupists military personnel. Based on current international treaties, it is perfectly possible to grant political asylum to coupists. I am speaking in general and not on this specific case. According to the modern doctrine, it is often necessary to grant political asylum to coupists to facilitate a transit to democracy or to safeguard democracy. Today's doctrine makes no exception of coupist military personnel. There have been different doctrines, but current treaties establish the possibility of granting political asylum to coupists.

I repeat, however, that we have made no decision on this because Ecuador has granted asylum and we must abstain from issuing a decision because there is no longer an issue.

[(Arizmendi] Mrs. Foreign Minister, the Colombian Government has expressed solidarity with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez over the coup attempt and rejects those who were involved in it. However, as inattentive observers see it, Colombia is helping the coupists by allowing them to secure asylum in Ecuador and by not deporting them to Venezuela. What is the reason for this political attitude?

[Sanin] This is not a matter of us granting or not granting asylum. The Ecuadoran Government, based on current international treaties between Ecuador and Venezuela, has granted political asylum to Higinio Castro and Oscar Navas. The Colombian Government, based on current norms on this matter, finds no reason why the two cannot leave for Ecuador as exiles.

[Reporter] Mrs. Foreign Minister, an international news agency reported last week that apparently there are another 15 coupist Venezuelan soldiers in Colombia, 9 officers and 6 noncommissioned officers, who reportedly are requesting political asylum in our country. Do you have any official information on this?

[Sanin] Not at all. The government has no information on this matter. We have talked about this but we have no reliable information.

[Arizmendi] The Foreign Ministry Advisory Committee is to meet on 5 March to analyze in detail, the government's position on the Constitutional Court's decision to declare 16 articles of the Concordat inadmissible. What are your plans on this, and what role will the Advisory Committee play in settling this issue, Mrs. Foreign Minister?

[Sanin] According to the Constitution, the Advisory Committee's role is to advise the president on foreign matters. The president listens to the committee and may or may not heed its advice. Traditionally, the Advisory Committee has enhanced the perspective capability of the government. We are carefully analyzing the Constitutional Court's ruling, which we officially received on 26 February together with the report that Justice Jose Gregorio Hernandez abstained from voting.

The government will present its position on the ruling to the Advisory Committee. The issue will then be discussed. The opinion of the Advisory Committee will be heard, and finally, as the Constitution establishes, the president will make a decision on the issue.

[Arizmendi] Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin, thank you very much for speaking to Caracol.

Expropriation of Traffickers' Property Planned

PA0103150693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Although it seems unbelievable, it is true: The narcotics traffickers own 3 million hectares of land in 14 departments of Colombia. The government is planning to expropriate that land before the end of 1993 without paying any compensation.

The government will continue investigating the land owned by the narcotics traffickers to expropriate it before the end of 1993 and distribute it among over 50,000 peasant families throughout the country. The regulations about this expropriation will prevent any compensation for the owners, because—according to the Executive Branch—the land is not being used productively.

[Begin Fernando Corrales, manager of the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform, recording] The leaders use various tactics to take advantage of the current legislation. We seek to reestablish territorial order in some areas of the country where there is confusion. [end recording]

Of the 3 million hectares of land owned by drug traffickers in Colombia, approximately 2.5 million hectares are in high-productive areas and are very appropriate for both agriculture and cattle raising, particularly in Santander, Norte de Santander, Uraba, Cordoba, and Cauca Departments.

The same situation prevails in other areas where the drug traffickers associate with the guerrillas to prevent farmers from tilling the land.

[Begin Corrales recording] There is an alliance between the guerrillas and the narcotics traffickers, where each one defends his own interests. One pays the other, and

this is the way they survive in an ill-named revolution without any ideology, but with lots of money. [end recording]

To prevent the influence of crime in Colombia, in 20 days the government will declare that certain areas are special zones of exclusion or isolation. Some of these areas are of great interest and benefit to the country, such as Cusiana and El Cerrejon, where the guerrillas are threatening the national economic future.

* Free Colombia Members Describe Group's Mission

93WD0370Z Santa Fe de Bogota SEMANA in Spanish 16 Feb 93 pp 34-39

[Interview with members of Colombia Libre (Free Colombia); place and date not given; first three paragraphs are SEMANA introduction]

[Text] All of Escobar's enemies are joining forces in an organization called Free Colombia.

Their headquarters are in a secret location in Medellin. There 150 people are working singlemindedly to destroy Pablo Escobar. The group's name is Free Colombia. But with their hoods and automatic weapons, they look like any other guerrilla group. They have attorneys, accountants, and an intelligence unit.

The group's philosophy is that the only way to victory is through organization. This is their first interview.

[SEMANA] Who are you?

[Free Colombia] Our organization's sole objective is to combat the terrorism, murders, and tortures perpetrated by Pablo Escobar.

[SEMANA] How does Free Colombia work?

[Free Colombia] We oppose any type of violence or terrorism. Our function is to provide intelligence by paying for information on the whereabouts of Escobar and his men. We supply that information to the authorities so they can act in the name of the law.

[SEMANA] Are you working for the authorities?

[Free Colombia] Let us say that we cooperate with the authorities.

[SEMANA] Are there Army and police officers in the organization?

[Free Colombia] Not exactly, but we do have connections with a number of officials; we have connections with people who have been affiliated with security organizations at one time. They are people who have been hurt by the murders of police and soldiers.

[SEMANA] Who is financing the organization?

[Free Colombia] At first we were financed by some people who had distanced themselves from Escobar. Then we got aid from people in industry and business, not just in Medellin but also in Bogota and the coastal region.

[SEMANA] How did you get this help?

[Free Colombia] We visited many people who were paying protection money and we asked them not to continue paying that money. In exchange, we would provide them with security so nothing would happen to them.

[SEMANA] And they agreed?

[Free Colombia] It was hard at first. But they knew that Escobar's greatest source of power is money, and without money it was easier to strike at his organization.

[SEMANA] How was this organization born?

[Free Colombia] The group got started after the Moncada and Galeano brothers were murdered in La Catedral prison.

[SEMANA] Were you working for them?

[Free Colombia] Some of us were.

[SEMANA] And your group's objective is to avenge them?

[Free Colombia] No. Those two families are part of our organization. But there are people who have nothing to do with them and who have decided to support us.

[SEMANA] What sort of people?

[Free Colombia] People in industry, businessmen. A lot of people who have been victimized by Escobar's war.

[SEMANA] We are speaking of civic groups, of industry and business?

[Free Colombia] Yes. People from many places call us. The only thing they all want is for us to put an end to Escobar.

[SEMANA] How have you managed to get the support of all those people who have nothing to do with the drug traffic?

[Free Colombia] We have credibility. The people know we do not fight violence with violence. They want an end to terrorism in Colombia.

[SEMANA] A few days ago an organization called the Pepes appeared. Is that your group?

[Free Colombia] No. We are a different organization. We sympathize with the Pepes, but we do not agree with their methods.

[SEMANA] What methods?

[Free Colombia] Bombs. We do not agree with terrorism. We have to fight Escobar in another way.

[SEMANA] How?

[Free Colombia] By penetrating his organization. By buying his men to get information about where their boss is hiding. We are never going to get Escobar with bombs. He is an expert in that field and he holds all the advantages there.

[SEMANA] Do you mean that Escobar's weak point in this war is betrayal by his own people?

[Free Colombia] Yes. We have already proven that. The people with him have given us a lot of information in exchange for good rewards.

[SEMANA] When were the Pepes organized?

[Free Colombia] The Pepes appeared after the Bogota bombing.

[SEMANA] Why after the Bogota bombing?

[Free Colombia] In that bombing children and people who had nothing to do with this war died. The images shown on the news were extremely moving. So some people decided to create an organization to respond to Escobar using his own methods.

[SEMANA] How do they do that?

[Free Colombia] If Escobar places a bomb, the Pepes will place three, all targeted against Escobar's family. If they find out where people working with him are, the decision is to execute them.

[SEMANA] What are your relations with the Pepes?

[Free Colombia] Good. Our organization is much more powerful. We have been in this fight for longer. We have suggested joining forces to fight Escobar together.

[SEMANA] You are talking about an alliance between the two organizations?

[Free Colombia] Yes. But a tactical alliance, for we strongly oppose the violence the Pepes are engaging in.

[SEMANA] Because of this disagreement, have there been any clashes between the two organizations?

[Free Colombia] No. Their objective and our objective are the same. To make Pablo Escobar disappear from the face of the earth.

[SEMANA] Do you think the way to fight Escobar is with organizations outside the law?

[Free Colombia] Without solidarity and the cooperation of our groups, the authorities are never going to do anything. That has already been shown. Without cooperation, it is impossible to get rid of Escobar.

[SEMANA] And what are you asking in exchange for this mission?

[Free Colombia] We have made several demands of the authorities.

[SEMANA] What type of demands?

[Free Colombia] One, that the fight be targeted directly against Escobar. Two, that the government not try to negotiate with him. There can be no middle ground in this war.

[SEMANA] How many organizations like yours are now after Escobar?

[Free Colombia] Just us and the Pepes.

[SEMANA] Are there mercenaries and bounty hunters after Escobar?

[Free Colombia] No. This is just work for Colombians. Nobody else belongs here.

[SEMANA] Some of you belonged to the Medellin Cartel. Did you also take part in terrorist acts?

[Free Colombia] None at all. Escobar has always acted without consulting anybody about anything. Whenever he committed an assassination, he called together the cartel members, informed them of what he had done, and told them: "If anybody does not like what I am doing, that is their problem, not mine."

[SEMANA] What happened to people who opposed him?

[Free Colombia] Most of them were kidnapped and killed.

[SEMANA] Escobar's own people were kidnapped by him?

[Free Colombia] Yes. He paid a lot of money for that. People were paid between $5 and $7 million for those kidnappings.

[SEMANA] How much does a month of this war cost Escobar?

[Free Colombia] As things are right now, based on our estimates, in January alone Escobar spent about $10 million on the war.

[SEMANA] Why did he get involved in this war?

[Free Colombia] Because he ordered people like Luis Carlos Galan killed. Galan had a government program to end the drug traffic.

[SEMANA] Who executed Galan?

[Free Colombia] The job was handled directly by Luis Eduardo Rueda Rocha. A gunman hired by Rodriguez Gacha.

[SEMANA] How much was he paid?

[Free Colombia] Three million dollars.

[SEMANA] Did all the people in the Medellin Cartel support the decision to kill Galan?

[Free Colombia] Escobar never asked anybody's opinion about it. The people learned about the assassination later.

[SEMANA] What was their reaction?

[Free Colombia] Nobody said anything, but they were all worried. They knew a political mistake had been made. But Escobar was very straightforward about this: "Whoever does not support my decision will be a dead man."

[SEMANA] How did Galan's assassination affect the drug traffic?

[Free Colombia] A dirty war started because the security forces began to go after many people who had nothing to do with this assassination. The police started to "fumigate" the towns and an all-out war began.

[SEMANA] Is that how the clash between the police and Escobar began?

[Free Colombia] Yes. He declared a no-holds-barred war against the police to make them respect his people's rights. And the people began to look up to him. They all saw him as the toughest man of Antioquia. A sort of modern Robin Hood who fought for the people's rights. But since the incident when a bomb was placed in a plane, people have been rethinking all that.

[SEMANA] Who blew up the plane?

[Free Colombia] It was a very sophisticated job. The bomb was designed with a special mechanism to blow up when the plane reached a certain altitude. The job was done by a brother of Tyson.

[SEMANA] Who does the car bombs?

[Free Colombia] There is just one specialist in charge of that. No one else can do it. We are after the guy who does that job.

[SEMANA] There are many people after Escobar, and the question everybody is asking is: why has nobody caught him?

[Free Colombia] He is still a very strong man. His security system is very good. We also know there are still people in the security forces cooperating with him. Escobar gets advance information about some of the operations against him.

[SEMANA] Have you managed to penetrate Escobar's organization?

[Free Colombia] We have gotten very close.

[SEMANA] What does getting close to Escobar mean?

[Free Colombia] Being 10 minutes away from where he is.

[SEMANA] Why have you not caught him?

[Free Colombia] Some things have gone wrong. He uses a lot of lookouts with radios to keep him informed about what is going on within a three-kilometer radius around him.

[SEMANA] Did you do those operations alone?

[Free Colombia] Some of them. But most with the authorities.

[SEMANA] Do you think that to catch Escobar you need 6,000 men like the group that is now in Medellin hunting for him?

[Free Colombia] No. You need good, loyal, and daring people. The authorities have a lot of operational problems.

[SEMANA] You put a price on Escobar's head?

[Free Colombia] Yes.

[SEMANA] How much?

[Free Colombia] Five million dollars.

[SEMANA] Whom are you offering that money to?

[Free Colombia] To anyone who kills Escobar.

[SEMANA] What if they turn him in?

[Free Colombia] We will also pay the reward in that case.

[SEMANA] What about for information leading to his friends?

[Free Colombia] That depends. If it is good, we may pay 200 million pesos.

[SEMANA] Has anybody already earned that money?

[Free Colombia] Yes.

[SEMANA] Who, for example?

[Free Colombia] The people who gave us information on the whereabouts of Jhonny Rivera, alias "el Palomo."

[SEMANA] Were you the ones who did that operation?

[Free Colombia] Not exactly. We paid for the information, then did some intelligence work to determine his movements, and when we knew it was time to act, we contacted the authorities who conducted the entire operation.

[SEMANA] For whom else have you paid 200 million pesos?

[Free Colombia] For Tyson. And we are offering that same amount of money to anyone who gives us information on Arete, el Chopo, and the people closest to Escobar.

[SEMANA] So you will pay twice the reward the government is offering?

[Free Colombia] Yes. There is enough money to pay those rewards. Just in January, we paid nearly 300 million pesos for information that enabled us to keep after Escobar.

[SEMANA] In how many operations have you cooperated with the police?

[Free Colombia] Information we have turned over to the authorities has helped them to conduct nearly 40 operations.

[SEMANA] How many men has Escobar lost in this war?

[Free Colombia] Nearly 300.

[SEMANA] Do you think Escobar is still in Antioquia?

[Free Colombia] Yes. He has never moved anywhere else. He knows this area like the palm of his hand, and he knows that the only place in the world where he can be safe is here in Antioquia.

[SEMANA] It is not true that he has left Colombia?

[Free Colombia] That is a big lie. Escobar is the king of disinformation, and he uses it to mislead the authorities.

[SEMANA] Why did Escobar escape from La Catedral?

[Free Colombia] Because he knew that the government was going to change his prison.

[SEMANA] How did he find that out?

[Free Colombia] People who had infiltrated the government told him.

[SEMANA] How much did he pay to escape from La Catedral?

[Free Colombia] Not a single peso. It was not necessary. He had had an emergency escape operation set up for a long time.

[SEMANA] Who arranged that escape?

[Free Colombia] El Chopo.

[SEMANA] How did he do it?

[Free Colombia] It was very simple. Escobar contacted el Chopo by radiotelephone and told him it was time to go. El Chopo brought two cars on the Caldas road and stopped 500 meters from the jail. Escobar went out the back of the jail with his people and then they took off.

[SEMANA] Where did they go?

[Free Colombia] They went directly to a ranch in Caldas called La Romelia. There they hid out until pressure from the Army eased. Then they went to Llanogrande, very close to Rionegro, and started their life underground.

[SEMANA] What will happen to your group once Escobar turns himself in or is killed or captured?

[Free Colombia] Our organization will immediately dissolve. We will turn in our weapons to the authorities. We would have no reason to continue existing as an organization.

Ecuador

Petroecuador, Ecopetrol Sign Agreements

PA0103152593 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Ricardo Estrada, president of the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise, Petroecuador, reported on agreements reached by Petroecuador and the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, Ecopetrol. Estrada said one specific agreement provides for joint exploration of the Colombian-Ecuadoran border area and other sectors of mutual interest to locate new hydrocarbon deposits.

The two companies reached agreements on the areas of exploration and exploitation of crude in the common border area. Estrada said the mutual cooperation also extends to the areas of marketing, control, transportation of products, trade, technical assistance, legal matters, and environmental control.

The Petroecuador president emphasized that the oil industry agreements reached with Colombia will benefit the country.

Paraguay

Electoral Board Members Begin Deliberations

PY0103174093 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 1 Mar 93 pp 2,3

[Text] The new members of the Colorado Party Electoral Board (TEP) began working yesterday morning, although the date set for the beginning of their activities was 1 March. Members of the Argana faction have protested this change in the TEP work schedule. In addition to this surprising fact, they were also surprised to learn that the legal representatives of the Wasmosy and Argana factions and journalists had been forbidden to enter Colorado Party headquarters.

Throughout the morning, the building was under the protection of policemen who received orders from TEP members through Vicente Gabazza, Colorado Party executive board security chief. Gabazza's presence was criticized in view of his direct relations with the former dictatorship and participation in several repressive operations against Paraguayan citizens, some of which he had "masterminded."

The most criticized event of the day was the evacuation of journalists and Argana faction leaders from the second floor of the Colorado Party headquarters, where they had been anxiously waiting for the result of the TEP members' meeting, which was being held behind closed doors. More then once, Gabazza unsuccessfully "invited" the journalists and Argana faction members to leave.

Therefore, TEP President Carlos Raul Noguera told journalists and members of the Argana faction that he wanted to discuss the TEP work with them and asked them "to please accompany me," which they all did, going to the first floor. Noguera stopped in front of the main entrance to give them a copy of an agreement dated 28 February. Meanwhile, police made a barricade to prevent the group from returning to the second floor.

As the staircase and elevators were blocked, Noguera left the group and went back to the TEP members' meeting. Before he left, [Argana faction legal representative] Diogenes Martinez tried to hand him a document drafted by his faction rejecting the election of the five TEP members, but Noguera did not stop to receive the document.

The TEP consists of Carlos Raul Noguera (president), Edgar Stanley, Carlos Ramon Valdez, Juan Dellavedova, and Liza Teresa Sanchez, while Luis A. Vely, Juan Carlos Miranda Duarte, Rodney Fuster Gadea, Victor Poletti, and Gladys Rambado Gimenez were elected as substitute members. The TEP thus analyzed the electoral documents without the presence of the two factions' legal representatives as established in Article 240 of the Electoral Code. However, notary Luis Antonio Paredes Jara attended the meeting. When the previous TEP was dismantled as a result of the resignation of some members and the rejection of others by the two factions, Paredes sealed off the TEP room.

Argana Followers To Resign From Colorado Executive Board

PY0103193493 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Leaders from the Colorado Reconciliation Movement [headed by Luis Maria Argana] announced they will resign en masse their membership on the Colorado Party Executive Board. Fernando Martinez, a representative from this movement, explains the reason for this decision:

[Begin recording] [Martinez] All of us followers of List No. 4, for which we worked with so much dedication and love, and who are effective and alternate members of the Colorado Party Executive Board, are signing a note declaring our total resignation from the Colorado Executive Board.

We are resigning because this Colorado Executive Board offers no guarantees. This board is being managed by people form outside the party, by people who do not have their own ideas, who do not make decisions on their own, and who receive instructions from people outside the party. We, and you, know who we are talking about; therefore we do not trust this Colorado Executive Board, nor doe we respect it, so it is not worthwhile sitting beside these people.

[Unidentified reporter] When will this resignation be official?

[Martinez] It will be effective on March 3 at 1000 by which we are inviting all the representatives of our movement from the interior of the Republic, about two representatives from each community, to attend this meeting. About 1,000 leaders from List No. 4 which has won the internal Colorado elections will meet with our candidates, Argana and Ybanez, and we will make our decision public. Anyway, I am telling you beforehand that we are all signing this note of resignation. [end recording]

Media Allege Persecution Due to Support for Argana

PY0103171793 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 28 Feb 93 p 1

["Text" of note issued by Nicolas Bo, president of the Private Communications Network, RPC, to the Inter-American Press Society, SIP]

[Text] Asuncion, 25 February 1993
Mister
President of the Inter-American Press Society
Alejandro Junco de la Vega
Present
Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to address this letter in my capacity as president of the Private Communications Network (RPC) comprising the newspaper NOTICIAS—which is associated to the Inter-American Press society—Channel 13 Television, and Radio Cardinal, to report the systematic persecution that the government of the Republic of Paraguay is exercising on the RPC.

The persecution is carried out under the excuse of an alleged control of the fulfillment of tax obligations. The action is directed against the newspaper NOTICIAS, Channel 13 Television, and Radio Cardinal.

Supervision is one of the diverse forms of pressure that the government is exercising in an obvious desire to intimidate our media as a clear reprisal for the support granted by some board of director members to the ticket headed by precidential hopeful Luis Maria Argana. Argana competed in the recent Colorado Party primary facing the government-supported ticket headed by presidential hopeful Engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

It is essential to stress, however, that the above-mentioned support for Argana was exclusively personal and did not affect the reporting objectivity of the newspaper NOTICIAS or the other RPC media.

We accuse and make directly responsible the government of the Republic, presided over by Army General Andres Rodriguez, for the above-mentioned persecution. This persecution is provoked by his reaction against the support given by some members of our company's board of director to Luis Maria Argana's presidential bid.

Regrettably, incidents like this still occur in our country where a primitive mentality pretends to sanction those

who are not in line with official positions. The government reaction is so harsh that all our companies, that is, LA VENCEDORA S.A., MANUFACTURAS DE TABACOS LAMBARE S.A., NICOLAS BO S.A., and CONSORSIO HOTELERO SUDAMERICANO S.A. are being tenaciously persecuted with "supervisions." These actions only create a climate contrary to work and investment, discouraging those who create sources of wealth for the country.

In light of the aforementioned facts, Mr. President, we request the intervention of that high organization to take steps before the government of the Republic of Paraguay to stop this economic persecution against our media.

We attach all pertinent documents and request that you attentively follow up on developments in this respect.

We submit our sincere gratitude for the attention that your organization will surely dedicate to this communication, and we take advantage of the opportunity to greet you Mr. President, and all other honorable members with our highest esteem.

Nicolas Bo
President

Rodriguez Presents State of Nation Address

PY0103192093 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 1255 GMT 1 Mar 93

[State of the Nation address by Paraguayan President General Andres Rodriguez at the resumption of the 1992 legislative term at the Congress building in Asuncion—live]

[Text] Honorable national Congress: In compliance with the terms of the national Constitution I have come to inform your excellencies of my government's deeds from 1 April 1992 to this date.

I wish to once again point out the unique historic process the Paraguayan people have been experiencing since the morning of 3 February 1989 when the Armed Forces of the nation, hearing the unanimous clamor of the citizenry, outsted a totalitarian regime that, for decades, violated and surpressed the rights and freedom of our people.

The democratic transition process we started at that moment, and which has developed within a framework of civic freedoms and the full enforcement of the law as never before in the history of our fatherland, is about to end, at least within the terms established by the Constitution.

We all know, however, that democracy is a political system and a way of life that does not end with time and demands from each and every citizen a permanent contribution and commitment to nourish it constantly, thus preventing it from becoming a routine development of mere formalities.

We must zealously defend a full democracy designed to consecrate a prosperous and more just society in Paraguay, overcoming imbalances and antagonisms that still prevail in our country inherited from old structures of corruption and domain.

In this regard we witness, with obvious concern, certain clearly demagogic attitudes and postures downplaying the true causes of the economic and social problems we are enduring, and even forgetting their own share of responsibility in generating these problems, promoting and calling for solutions that are far beyond the country's possibilities and only seeking to discredit the democratic transition process and exalting alleged virtues of a past which the great majority of Paraguayan citizens want to definitely forget once and for all.

We may have been overindulgent and failed to adopt the necessary measures that would have allowed us to reflect the true magnitude of the crisis affecting all sectors of our Republic when we started this transition process, but the magnitude of these problems, the need for urgent solutions, and the urgent need to start building a new country whose society was morally damaged, prompted us to focus our attention on the urgent implementation of measures designed to correct the malformations and shortcoming that hindered national development.

The country has witnessed the great progress we have made in rationalizing the public sector, streamlining the economic system, eliminating privileges and prerogatives, reducing our foreign debt and, consequently, recovering our country's access to international credit, sanctioning laws of an economic nature, adopting a fiscal and anti-inflationary policy. We have achieved all this in the midst of particularly unfavorable circumstances for our weak economy due to the significant reduction of our harvests due to poor weather conditions and the drop experienced by the prices of our main export goods in the international market.

Fortunately, after an extremely negative period of time, the prospects for our production look greatly encouraging and the international prices for our products now tend to increase. If this situation prevails it will bring relief to our country and will contribute to the clear recovery of our economy that will, undoubtedly, benefit the Paraguayan citizens, the ultimate beneficiaries of our concern.

Honorable national Congress: We are opening a new legislative term, in compliance with the terms of the new Constitution that was sanctioned by the Natinal Constituent Assembly that deliberated during 1992.

This important assembly, where representatives of almost all the country's political sectors were present, approved a Constitution that introduced obvious progress at the level of institutions and the rights and guarantees of citizens.

Beyond some fortuituous instances that totally lack real meaning we must recognize that the National Constituent Assembly was another proof of the political evolution of our people in the path toward democracy. I am intimately satisfied to be here and to be able to relate to the nation the way the government fulfilled its duty and the result of our efforts to serve the Paraguayan people. We did this by overcoming one by one factors that for so many years conspired against our progress, freedom, peace, and happiness.

Next I will summarize the tasks and accomplishments in the different areas of executive endeavor, trusting that you, honorable members, will appreciate it as a true dimension of the efforts of those who put all their intelligence and patriotism into their task.

Interior Ministry: The ministry fulfilled its specific task throughout the country through the capital's police, the government delegations, and their different departments, focusing its action on preserving public order and the people's safety.

I have learned that recently—stimulated by the economic crisis, the acute unemployment rate, and the increased movement of people in border areas—the police reported an increase in criminal activity carried out with means and resources that overcame its capacity to respond. The executive branch is determined to equip the police with the means to make possible a successful fight against crime and to reestablish peace in those sectors most affected by the rise in crime. We have even ordered the intervention of Armed Forces personnel to support police actions, particularly in Amambay and Alto Parana, which are the hardest hit in this respect.

A very significant event that has gain notoriety in national and international public opinion circles has been the discovery of archives uncovering the dark side of the repression unleashed during the past dictatorship.

The Interior Ministry has helped the work of legislative commmisions and the courts to preserve these very valuable documents in the hope that this irrefutable proof of the grave violation of human rights during the previous regime will serve to repair the legitimate rights of victims, and so that future generations are fully aware of the true totalitarian nature of that long period in our history.

In 1992, through Decree 14295/92, we created the commission in charge of fighting cattle theft. The Interior Ministry organized working meetings designed to create a plan to fight this crime that causes so much damage to the farming sector. Within this context, the Special Operations Police [Policia Especial de Operaciones] carried out the first operations with the support of the Attorney General's Office, Finance Ministry inspectors, and the Rural Association of Paraguay with positive results, which give us the hope that instances of cattle theft in our country will soon drop significantly.

Finally, the national emergency committee and its executive board have given invaluable assistance to communities affected by natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes, frosts, and draughts using their own resources and those obtained from important local donations and international organizations.

Foreign Relations: Our country's foreign policy during this period has continued to make progress, as it has right from the beginning of my government. Many chiefs of state of friendly countries have visited Paraguay. Among our latest visitors were Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon, Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem, and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, as well as other international personalities such as the British foreign, commerce, and industry ministers and the Colombian foreign minister. Various agreements designed to strengthen our ties with those friendly nations were signed on the occasion of all these visits.

Moreover, in my capacity as chief of state, I have attended the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. On this occasion I disclosed our country's stance regarding the preservation of the environment and sustainable development.

As for integration, my government has had decisive participation in various integration schemes such as the Latin American Integration Association, the Latin American Economic System, the River Plate Basin, the Common Market of the South, Mercosur, and the Paraguay-Parana waterway.

Paraguay's ties with the EC have been strengthened and negotiations for Paraguay's entry into the GATT are quite advanced. Within this integrationist framework I attended the second Mercosur summit in Las Lenas, Mendoza, Argentina. Moreover, I had the great honor of participating in the second Ibero-American summit held in Madrid, Spain.

In response to an official invitation extended by the president of Chile, I paid an official visit to this brother country.

Later on I attended the sixth Group of Rio summit in Buenos Aires on 1-2 December. I ended my agenda of international meetings with the third Mercosur summit held in Montevideo on 28-29 December.

Within this overall framework of an integrationist relationship we must point out the huge effort made within the Mercosur, such as the approval of the timetable for the implementation of measures designed to establish the common market within the established deadline.

Within the framework of the broadening of international relations and within the government's open door policy, we have established or, in some cases, renewed diplomatic relations with countries which, although they maintained other ties with ours, were formally distant.

We have thus established diplomatic relations in Europe: with Russia, Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Belarus, Croatia, Slovania, Esthonia, Latvia, Rumania, and Ukrania; in America with: Belize, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname; in Asia with: Iran, Kuwait, and Singapore; in Africa with the Ivory Coast; in Oceania with New Zealand.

Our relationship with the people and government of Japan has been excellent. In 1992 Japan's non-reimbursable assistance to our country, mainly in the telecommunications, agriculture, and health fields, is estimated between $25 and $30 million dollars.

Mention should also be made of the significant technical cooperation granted by Germany, a country with which we have always maintained an excellent relationship which in 1992 amounted to a non-reimbursable amount of $7 million.

Moreover, our relationship with the United States was strengthened through the signing of the Corporation for Private Investments Abroad agreement and the common efforts in the struggle against drug trafficking.

The framework agreement signed in Brussels on 3 February 1992 has translated our very good relationship with the EC into projects of great interest for our country, such as the San Pedro-Caaguazu agricultural program which is currently underway and for which the EC has granted Paraguay a non-reimbursable loan amounting to approximately $13 million.

The industrial reconversion program, also curretly underway, is designed to study and recommend policies for the country's industrial reconversion for the purpose of the implementation of Mercosur. The EC has promised to give our country a non- reimbursable $20 million loan for the Chaco's sustainable development program.

The government's main concern regarding the Pilcomayo River basin is aimed at studying and drawing up projects for works that will prevent the constant detour of the river caused by the washing away of sediments from Bolivian territory that may affect or harm the environment as well as the rural settlements.

In order to help find a definite solution to the problem of the detouring or blockage of the Pilcomayo River, the EC has promised to send three experts in hydraulics, sedimentation, and environmental problems to our country.

In June in Las Lenas, we signed the transportation agreement for the Paraguay-Parana waterway. The chief of state of the member countries of this waterway were present at the signing. Moreover, during the 20th ordinary meeting of foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin we approved the statutes for the Paraguay-Parana waterway. This project benefits five countries of this basin and probably represents the most important infrastructure of this region.

During 1992, in the field of bilateral relations, we signed 67 agreements; in bilateral relations, six agreements.

Finance: The Finance Ministry, which is in charge of formulating and implementing the fiscal policy, has been successful in meeting the numerous economic and political challenges that had to be tackled during 1992 and has continued to contribute to the modernization of the state and country in a balanced manner.

This has been possible through a rational administration of resources and the streamlining of public finances through new procedures that have substantially improved the government's administration.

During 1992 the Finance Ministry carried out intense international negotiations, especially with multilateral financial organizations, and has obtained several loans earmarked for finance development projects undertaken by the government.

The public foreign debt accumulated until 21 December 1992 amounted to $1.250 billion, including capital and interest in arrears. This amount represents a 29 percent reduction compared to the amount of the debt in late 1991, when it amounted to $1.76 billion.

As for public finances, it should be pointed out that during 1992, various exogenous sectors affected our economic activities.

As a result of the slowdown experienced by the productive sector, revenues did not amount to estimates. Moreover, we had to implement an aid program for cotton growers which implied a direct subsidy amounting to 47 billion guaranies and a tax exemption amounting to 15 billion guaranies. Nevertheless, 1992 revenues were 16 percent higher than 1991 revenues.

The implementation of the tax reform is very significant. The value added tax [VAT], implemented in July 1992, is the key issue of this reform. This new tax also affects revenues because a prudent period of time is necessary for its correct implementation and use.

The persistent delay in collecting royalties and compensations from the Itaipu binational enterprise has also had a negative impact on public finances.

Within this framework we implemented the government's budget, which can be regarded as highly satisfactory in view of the aforementioned financial limitations. In this sense it should be mentioned that 69 percent of the budget has been implemented, while 89 percent of this was financed with ordinary resources. This represent 17 percent more than what was implemented in 1991, which almost makes up for the 17.8 percent inflation rate registered during 1992. Although it did not increase outrageously in real terms, the implementation of the budget was tied strictly to financing possibilities.

Current expenditures have increased mainly for meeting social needs, with greater allocations for the education field, such as opening new teaching posts; for the health field; for the adjustment of Chaco war heroes' pensions;

for salaries for teachers and health workers, such as nurses and paramedics; and for the subsidy granted to cotton growers.

In 1992, through the National Housing Council, CONAVI, and with the implementation of the short-term action plan, a total of 7,200 houses were built, from which more than 40,000 citizens benefited at an approximate cost of 79 billion guaranies. This provided approximately 50,000 new job opportunities. Currently the construction of another 6,000 houses has started as part of the 1993 plan. In addition to mobilizing idle labor, CONAVI contributes to improving the installed capacity in the industrial as well as the management field, and represents one of the significant factors in the country's domestic capitalization.

The Central Bank: During 1992 legal reserve measures were implemented in order to encourage savings in national currency. Moreover, a system to clasify assets and credit risks was implemented in order to promote and preserve the financial system's solvency.

In late December the net amount of the public foreign debt dropped from $1.340 billion to approximately $1.250 billion. In view of agreements reached with creditor governments belonging to the Paris Club, we managed to cancel debt arrears with a significant reduction in interest. During the 1989-1992 period the government cancelled its debt with Brazil, which amounted to $485 million, and made payments to the international banking sector with discounts representing a savings of $474 million.

The great financial effort made by the government during 1992 in order to honor its foreign debts and maintain the country's stability will allow the country to reverse the negative flow of capital and finance its economic growth and development.

Education and worship: The Education and Worship Ministry has undertaken the commitment to decisively support the democratization process the country is experiencing by placing great emphasis in the fields under its jurisdiction: education, culture, and worship. The changes and crises have prompted society as a whole to appreciate that culture is a factor in the coexistence between human beings and integration among nations, as well as a basic element for development.

This awareness of the role played by culture in the social processes has determined the emphasis that must be granted to education as the main and irreplaceable means to transmit culture.

Within this context concrete actions have been implemented to respond to the prevailing problem the Education Ministry has tackled as the key issue for its future plans. The drawing up of the National Culture Plan, the first of its kind in our country, is a good example of the challenge undertaken.

The deep-rooted changes taking place in our country at this moment in the democratic transition process must be accompanied by a change in the education program. This task cannot be carried out by a single government, a single political party, or a single generation; this task must be carried out by the people. This responsibility and commitment must be shared by all.

Within this framework of action, the quality of education is regarded as the decisive requisite for the process of change. The Education Ministry's stance, which seeks to promote the public's active participation in the development of cultural processes, manifestations, and expressions, entails the need to strengthen the multiple and varied capabilities and potentials that exist, in terms of a collective project for a cultural democracy.

Aware that education is the basic tool, and culture the raison d'etre of the principles of democracy and social justice, as well as of their effective implementation, the government has carried out actions and developed programs designed to achieve the desired objectives.

A new basic education program has been drawn up. We have also adjusted the secondary school commercial, technical, and professional programs.

A total of 276 new primary schools have been built, and 73 new zones overseeing 5,160 schools and 794,000 primary school students have been created.

We have dedicated 60 new secondary schools, and have created 374 new secondary school courses and 451 posts in government-run institutions, representing 7,000 teaching hours, to teach 176,000 students distributed in 923 schools throughout the country.

A total of 2,260 teachers, distributed in 635 teaching centers, have been responsible for adult literacy programs from which 40,000 adults have benefited.

The special education program for handicapped students was granted for 17 different schools, and has benefited 3,360 students. In addition, 198 special classes were coordinated.

A total of 351 new secondary and 80 primary school classrooms were constructed.

Last year an active dialogue was held with interested sectors in order to improve the church-state relationship, which now has a new legal framework established by the new national Constitution.

Agriculture and livestock: During 1992 the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry focused its efforts on continuing to implement the policy established at the beginning of this government for supporting farmers, especially small farmers, so that they can attain sustainable development levels. Priority treatment has been granted to the rural development policy. In this sense we have updated and promoted the significant aspects of the agricultural and forestry plan. We have also implemented ad-hoc policy tools, such as a subsidy for cotton prices, a reduction in

interest rates for the agricultural sector for the 1992-93 harvest, and the extension of the deadline for payment of income tax until 1993 for small farmers.

A total of six projects are currently under way. They are: the Caazapa-Eje Norte rural integrated development project; a project to strengthen the agricultural sector; the agricultural education project; the Paraguari Department integrated devolpment project; the consolidation project of Alto Parana and Canendiyu colonies; and assistance to the peasant settlements. Moreover, another eight projects currently under way with aid from GTZ [expansion unknown] and JICA [Japanese Cooperation Agency] have reached various stages of development.

Another series of projects about to be started include the consolidation of rural colonies financed by the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank]; the northeastern region credit program to be financed by FIDA [International Fund for Agricultural Development]; the Alto Parana-Northern Itapua project to be financed by the World Bank; and the Yacyreta action plan to be financed by the IDB.

As for the land reform, we have established 51 new peasant settlements distributed over 188,000 hectares of land and divided into 14,700 farming plots.

The following infrastructure in rural areas has been improved: 719 km of highway, 472 meters of bridge, 10 artesian wells, and 5,480 latrines. In the commercial policy field progress has been made in negotiations to join GATT. An active participation in Mercosur and Conasur [Southern Cone Consultative Council for Cooperation Farm Sector], together with the private sector, was one of the most promising actions carried out at a regional level.

The improvement of the foreign and domestic markets information system is allowing producers to make wiser decisions. The dissemination of information on market behavior by the 14 radio stations and the two television channels has allowed most producers throughout the country to make better deals on their goods and plan their next crops better.

Great efforts have been made to improve planning for the sowing and harvesting of crops. This has allowed the implementation of preventive measures to neutralize, at least partially, the effects of bad weather and unfavorable international market prices for export goods.

More emphasis has been given to agricultural diversification in the p

work was done to develop local breeds as well as the crossbreeds such as Brahman, Hereford, and Limousin. Special grass for cattle was also introduced; 135,000 doses of semen for artificial insemination of bovines were produced; 4,500 cows were inseminated; and technical assistance was provided to 1,250 producers. More than 5 million head of cattle were vaccinated against foot-and-mouth desease.

Regarding the policy for the protection of the environment, efforts were made to create three units for the conservation of natural resources in the San Rafael mountain range, Ypoa Lake, and Acahay hill, which covers an area of 353,000 hectare.

The Agriculture and Livestock Ministry was also involved in the activities of territorial reorganization in the eastern and western regions of the country through a new land registration system.

Regarding credit policy, agricultural loans for an overall amount of 350 billion guaranies were granted, of which the Agriculture Development Fund granted 22 billion guaranies. The refinanced loans amounted to 55 billion guaranies. The Agriculture Development Fund took care of the needs of 17,400 producers.

Public works and communications: The work done during 1992 included the construction of 787 km of paved and dirt roads. Maintenance was done on all the national roads that needed improvement. It should be pointed out that the Ministry of Public Works and Communications extended its cooperation to the departmental districts through its District Road Service, repairing 12,400 km of streets and subsidiary roads.

Due to the importance of the road work done, the following should be mentioned: Concepcion-Pozo Colorado road, 146 km long, of which 73 km are paved and 30 km are under construction; Highway 3, Santa Rosa-Ybu Yau segment: 97 km; Highway 5, Cuero Fresco-Concepcion segment: 88 km; Highway 8, Numi-Caazapa segment: 27 km; Numi-San Juan Nepomuceno segment: 50 km; Trans-Chaco Highway, Filadelfia road segment: 18 km; Caacupe-Tobati road: 17 km; Trans-Chaco highway, Filadelfia-Mariscal Estigarribia segment: 88 km; Highway 4, San Ignacio-Pilar segment: 30 kg of paved road under construction on an experimental basis, and external financing for building the remaining 120 km is being arranged by Fonplata [River Plate Basin Development Fund]; Trans-Chaco highway, Jardin Botanico-Desvio Puente Remando segment; and Hernandarias-Catuete road: 152 km. Bidding is also being done for repaving 370 km of roads. These road construc-

The subsidiary road construction project carried out important work in the new rural settlements of the country for the direct benefit of 18 rural settlements, leading to the construction of 720 km of roads, 443 meters of bridge, and 1,890 meters of drainage system.

Regarding the construction of the Eastern Airport, 66 percent of the project has already been built, and it is expected to be finished by the middle of this year.

In the mining sector the German Government provided $3 million in aid, which was used for establishing the most modern chemical and mineral laboratory in South America, which is almost ready to start operations.

The Water Resources Department was created with UN assistance for the overall survey and exploitation of the country's water resources.

The Jose A. Falcon port facilities and container storage site in the port of Asuncion was completed. This covers an area of 26,500 square meters, with advanced technical operations facilities. Pier construction in the port of Villeta continues, and will be inaugurated within the next few months. Regarding the improvement of the navigation system of the Paraguay River, important work was done for installing signals on the river.

The administration of the State Merchant Fleet has been reorganized; for the second consecutive year its operation has been in the black, with a surplus of 524 million guaranies, used mainly to pay operational debt abroads and for the repair of several river and maritime ships.

Electrical energy was provided to 12,800 new clients in Asuncion and to 36,600 new clients in other parts of the country, where the service was extended to 150 new towns. Regarding the Yacyreta Binational enterprise, the main civil works of the dam covered about 80 percent of the project.

In telecommunications, the government installed new telephone centers and enlarged the current ones in the metropolitan area and in other parts of the country. The new telephone stations will allow the installation of 10,640 new telephones.

In transportation, a new overall policy for the correct development and operation of the motor vehicle system and road traffic has been implemented. It should be pointed out that the removal of international cargo quotas for countries that use that system, and the preparation of a National Master Transportation Plan, have been achieved.

As far as public service is concerned, the National Postal Service has been considerably improved for the reception and delivery system of national and foreign letters. New services have also been implemented, such as the special delivery system, interconnection with the postal system of Mercosur, and other services.

National defense: The Defense Ministry has fulfilled its appropriate administrative duties in compliance with the existing laws. The Administration and Financing Directorate, which is charged with various administrative activities, was created in order to update and improve the performance of the institution.

Some 60 students, including civilians and military, have graduated from the National War College. They were then confirmed by the National Defense Council, after having complied with the requirements of the National Higher Studies Plan.

The Armed Forces, which is made up of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, satisfactorily complied with the instructions of the commander in chief. It has the constitutional duty to safeguard the nation and defend the legitimately established authorities through the appropriate use of its operations and logistics institutions, taking into account their specific mission and area of responsibility.

The Armed Forces have contributed to the country's socioeconomic development in implementing various humanitarian programs, and especially by supporting the activities carried out by Civilian Defense, which is charged with mitigating the harm caused by natural disasters and other elements across the country.

The Armed Forces cadres have received permanent professional, scientific, and technological training so that they can comply with their institutional objectives. They have also advocated the democratic transition process that is under way in the country.

The decentralized institutions which depend on the Defense Ministry have carried out administrative and operational tasks in keeping with their specific duties and in order to meet their objectives.

Other institutions, such as the Veterans Assistance Program Directorate [Direccion de Asistencia a Veteranos de la Guerra del Chaco] have satisfactorily met the needs of the Chaco War veterans.

The National Commission for Paraguayan Chaco Regional Integrated Development has expanded its area of responsibility to the western region, in order to fully and definitively incorporate it into the country's socioeconomic development, which is a priority for the government. The government implemented 12 major projects and other undertakings with the support of the German Government, the United Nations, and the EEC. The following projects have been implemented in the western region: La Patria, development of the northeastern Chaco area; Rio Verde, an experimental model center which supports the private sector; and projects in Mariscal Estigarribia, Filadelfia, Teniente Pico, Sierra Leon, Alto Paraguay, Mayor Joel Estigarribia, Jojoba Reta, Agua Dulce, Pozo Hondo, and Campo Aceval.

Public Health and Social Welfare: During 1992 the Health and Social Welfare Ministry made a great effort to meet the priority needs of the population. It implemented a special programs designed to provide health

assistance and sanitation to people affected by the floods, and to prevent the spread of cholera. The hospital ship did outstanding work, with the common efforts of employees from the Health Ministry, the Social Security Hospital, the Military Hospital, the Navy, the Las Residentas Foundation, the Directorate for Social Welfare and Assistance, Diben, and Paraguayan Petroleum, Inc., Petropar.

During 1992 the cholera prevention campaign was successfully carried out, despite the adverse situation caused by epidemics in bordering countries. This was possible thanks to the campaigns that helped the people become aware of the disease, and to the cooperation of many institutions and organizations that conducted coordinated actions.

In the area of preventive medicine, we must note the intensification of the vaccination campaign, which touched 89 percent of the population. The control of malaria, cases of which dropped by 57 percent, or fewer than half of those registered in 1991, was another great achievement.

The U.S. Army has provided great medical and dental assistance in rural settlements, where the Health Ministry also provides periodic assistance and trains health volunteers. The efforts made by Senasa [National Service for Environmental Sanitation] to provide potable water to townships in the interior of the country should be highly praised. It should be noted that 54 deep wells were drilled in 1992, while new health units were established in Chore, Horqueta, Loreto, La Nina, Cocuere, Aguidaban-Nigui, Caacupe-mi, Naranjito, and Santa Rosa de Lambare, while others were expanded and restored. The increase in maternity and infant services and other programs should also be noted. During this year more than 2.8 million visits to the doctor were recorded, and over 44,000 deliveries were performed, in addition to other health services.

We laid special emphasis on the training of employees, as we are convinced that we will not be able to improve either health care quality or the efficiency of health services unless we have qualified staff. This is the only way we can guarantee that the Paraguayan people enjoy some of the most fundamental rights of an individual, namely health and welfare.

Justice and labor: One of the main concerns of the government is to further a policy geared to strengthening human rights.

To this effect we must underscore the fact that many workshops were held to teach people about human rights. Besides, the fact that Paraguay decided to accept the jurisdiction of the Inter- American Court of Human Rights in order to abide by the San Jose of Costa Rica Pact places us in our niche within the international community.

With regard to the penitentiary system, a step in the right direction was taken to solve the problem of overcrowding in Tacumbu prison. To this effect, we are working on the enlargement of General Diaz outpost and on the refurbishing of The Good Shepherd Home [women's penitentiary], which we are undertaking thanks to the special cooperation of the Armed Forces and the Las Residentas Foundation.

Steady progress is being made in a plan designed to improve prisons with a view to overcoming once and for all a major social problem.

Thanks to the work of the National Codification Commission, the draft of a new penal code and of a new code for minors will soon be submitted to Congress. Intensive work is also under way to set up new offices and microfilming facilities at the Office of Vital Statistics.

In an effort to encourage citizens to participate in political activities, free identification documents have been issued for those who need them to register in the national voters' lists.

Paraguay has earned good standing within the International Labor Organization. Our country is up to date on its dues to this international organization, and it is thus able to exercise its rights. We have also engaged in intensive international actions to reconcile laws and criteria within Mercosur.

Labor problems have been addressed as normally as expected. In light of the need to adjust the labor laws to the new Constitution, the executive branch submitted a draft labor code to Congress. It is hoped that the honorable Congress will pass it, because it will lay down the appropriate legal framework for governing business-labor relations.

Industry and commerce: The Industry and Commerce Ministry continues to engage in activities designed to promote economic growth within the framework of a market economy, to prepare Paraguay for joining Mercosur, and to attract both domestic and foreign investments.

During this period the ministry continued to promote the industrial promotion project through an agreement signed with the European Economic Community. The country was represented at the first round of talks aimed at seeking agreement on agricultural topics. Additionally, efforts were also made to design the textile master plan and to further the privatization process.

In the industrial sector, the government provided technical advice to industries and to investors, and Paraguayan representatives actively served on working committees of Mercosur and of the National Foreign Trade Council. They also participated in negotiations aimed at allowing Paraguay to join GATT.

The Industrial Extension Service covers the entire nation, and provides guidance to businessmen from various places through regional offices opened in Concepcion, Encarnacion, and Ciudad del Este.

The Industry and Commerce Ministry has actively participated in the National Export Council, in the National Coffee Commission, and in the Tariff Council. Jointly with the Foreign Ministry, it has also participated in Pro-Paraguay [Institute for Export Promotion].

Consortia groups have been organized within Pro-Paraguay to export shoes and other leather items, garments, and fruits. These actions have been instrumental in promoting trade both with Latin American countries and other countries, always sharpening their focus on opening markets for our domestic products and on participation by Paraguayan businesses in international fairs and commercial missions.

Agreements have also been signed with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation of the United States of America, and with the Multilateral Agency for Investment Guarantees, MIGA, of the World Bank.

We have established the legal and regulatory framework for capital markets and the stock exchange with a view to boosting investments and productivity.

In order to protect consumers against speculation, we have implemented a program to end videotape piracy, and another one to prevent contraband goods from entering the country.

Integration: The integration process launched with the signature of the Treaty of Asuncion, which established Mercosur, involves four countries: Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay [as heard]. Great strides have been made in this common endeavor to set up a common market. We will thus be able to achieve sustainable economic and social development, reduce poverty levels, level off inequalities in wealth, preserve natural resources, and protect the environment.

The establishment of this common market, which has an area of 12 million square kilometers and a population of approximately 200 million, will entail phasing out customs duties and other barriers that hamper multilateral trade, and promoting the reconciliation of policies that will offset macroeconomic differences between member countries. The final result will be the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor within the common market thus established. The government has requested a world-famous firm of consultants to draft an in-depth study on Paraguay's perspectives within Mercosur.

Concerning the achievements of the agencies that come under the presidency of the Republic, let us mention the Technical Planning Secretariat, which was instrumental in fostering international technical cooperation through the signature of agreements with the EEC to help funding the sustainable development of the Chaco region.

The return of the national census of population and housing that was held last year will be the starting point for development programs and projects in our country.

Much progress was made in streamlining our policy on public investment so that the Finance Ministry and Congress might allocate the government's resources in a more efficient way.

Directorate for Social Welfare and Assistance, Diben: Diben has continued its indefatigable work to provide aid to children, the elderly, and the handicapped who live in complete destitution, besides helping the population in emergencies. Last year 7.6 billion guaranies were appropriated to Diben to defray expenses. The special project on human development that was implemented within the framework of the program of the Council for Rural Development benefited 30,000 women peasants.

As for civil engineering works, community development centers were built in Caazapa, Pilar, Tobati, and Valenzuela. Moreover, firms were invited to tender for the construction of 11 community development centers in different towns throughout the country.

Diben and the Las Residentas Foundation are jointly funding a project to provide health care coverage for the poor at national hospitals. This program has provided health care to thousands of people suffering from various diseases, most of them requiring expensive and complex treatment. Outlay on these programs totaled 1.2 billion guaranies in 1992.

National Antidrugs Secretariat, Senad: This secretariat, created by this government for drug enforcement, has performed an oustanding task with the support of similar institutions. Local and international seminars, training courses, and other activities have been carried out to prevent drug addiction. Cooperation agreements were signed with the United States, with various Latin American countries, and with the EEC.

As for controlling actions, the amount of drugs destroyed was higher than that confiscated in previous years. More than 643,000 kg of marijuana, 63 kg of cocaine, and more than 8,000 doses of hallucinatory drugs, along with elements used by drug traffickers worth approximately $100 million, were seized and destroyed.

A program is being implemented with the cooperation of the Agriculture Ministry to replace the very profitable marijuana plantations.

Messrs. Senators and Deputies, I have just complied with the terms of Article 238, Section 8 of the Constitution. Let me address you in this solemn session in a less formal tone. I feel that I want to do it, because I want to first convey to each of you my esteem in the framework of a civic and very sincere friendship. We have joined together during this four-year term to restore the Paraguayan will for democracy. The experience I have gained during this term forces me to set aside the rigor of protocol and to directly and informally express some thoughts. I think I have the right, and that I am even compelled to do so, because this is the last message I have the honor of delivering to Congress.

On 15 August 1993 I will leave the power to which I was elected by the vote of my fellow countrymen. On this date I will cheerfully transfer that power to my constitutional successor, thus complying with the 3 February proclamation that was designed to rescue the legal principles and Paraguay's international prestige, and to begin a new political era, without authoritarianism and the vices that characterize the corruption of personalism.

We had to face a new style of government with a lack of experience, because we did not have any background to guide us. Fortunately we were able to gradually overcome the problems that emerged, and problems will probably continue to emerge in our natural aspiration to establish an authentic democracy.

This is why I want to express before this honorable national Congress my profound gratitude to all the Paraguayan people, to all the political and social circles in their different manifestations, to all, without exception, for their participation in this process. This is a process we are forging to the best of our ability, trying to correct our mistakes and the mistakes of others, the mistakes of the past and of the present, and our involuntary mistakes.

Democracy cannot be improvised. On the contrary, it is the result of a hard training which no one can be considered exempt from. This is the patient task of leaders and people, whatever their position or condition. At one time I said that democracy is one of the most serious things that can happen to a people, because one must know how to create it, how to keep it without pause, and how to perfect it constantly with a spirit of self-denial and personal sacrifices, with clear ideas that should not be confounded with cheap demagoguery, and with the imperturbable serenity and balance it demands.

Democracy cannot be given away, either. No one can invoke it as a privilege for his own whims, or as an instrument of antisocial conduct. Democracy cannot exist without strict respect for others' rights. This axiom, which is essential for its existence, is valid not only for the individual or for collective relations among individuals, but also for those between public powers under the exclusive areas of their jurisdictions. Benito Juarez said: Respect for the rights of others represents peace. This is why I believe that one of the most difficult tasks for the governments of democratic countries is to create awareness among the people about their rights and obligations to the community. It hurts me to say that I believe it is still very difficult for us to assimilate that exemplary conduct.

Allow me from this stand, and almost at the conclusion of my presidential term, to make a fervent call to all my fellow countrymen to get used to the idea of respecting other people's rights, doing away once and for all with the bad habits that stain and degrade our coexistence.

Senators and deputies, I thank you for your patience in allowing me to make some reflections, which I know are not new to any of you, but which I believe should be expressed to put it on record and to explain the reasons for my public conduct.

And in this regard I would not be at peace with my conscience if I failed to mention once again now, on this solemn occasion, my colleagues of the Armed Forces, who on 3 February 1989 joined me in the responsibility of handing over to our country a new political structure which the people had been demanding for many years.

I cannot forget the names of those who were personally next to me, risking their professional futures and perhaps their own lives. I cannot forget that it was necessary to shed blood to defeat the stubbornness of people who hang on to an illegal and obsolete power. I will never forget those who with their advice or encouragement joined the successful progress of that memorable event which brought a new era to our country.

Honorable national Congress, I wish you success in your deliberations, and I ask the Lord, the supreme legislator, to protect the Paraguayan nation and to guide it on the broad and propitious path of peace and justice. [applause]

Peru

Military Court Sentences Officer Involved in Killing

PY2602233993 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 13 Feb 93 p A6

[Text] The Supreme Council of Military Justice (CSJM) yesterday sentenced an Army officer involved in the killing of 15 peasants in Rodeopampa (Huancavelica) in July 1991 to 10 years in prison.

The sentence was imposed by the CSJM Review Court against Army Lieutenant Javier Bendezu Vargas for abuse of authority and falsehood in the incident that has been labeled "human rights violations" related to the killing of the peasants.

Previously, the Army Second Judicial Zone sentenced the officer to a lesser punishment that, according to the Review Court, was not in proportion to the seriousness of the incident.

The incident, which is known by the press as the "Santa Barbara massacre," occurred when the Scorpion patrol left the Lircay antisubversive base (Huancavelica) with the mission to go to Rodeopampa to fight the terrorists threatening that area. The unit was commanded by Lt. Bendezu Vargas.

One of the paragraphs of the note released by the CSJM says: "The Supreme Council of Military Justice had to act with justice in this delicate case in which excesses that deserve this exemplary sentence have been proven, because we are concerned about correcting and

repressing cases of human right violations perpetrated against the civilian population."

Coca Enterprise Officials Accused of Drug Trafficking

PY2602222493 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Feb 93 p 4

[Text] Alfonso Calderon Otoya, director general of the Executive Agency for Drug Control [Ofecod], has sent an official letter to Controller General Herminia Drago demanding control actions in her own departments, including the Peruvian Children Foundation and the National Coca Enterprise [Enaco].

Calderon Otoya asks the controller general to take action because there are "significant irregularities of an administrative and monetary nature that have led to the commission of crimes."

Calderon Otoya states in his letter that serious violations of the law were committed through the purchase of coca from producers, and that even cocaine paste was processed inside Enaco.

The letter adds that "high-ranking Enaco officials [no close quotation mark as published] are "involved in national drug trafficking activities and in undervaluing and irregularly selling chemical components," although no names or details of the crimes were provided.

A report has been released by the Peruvian Children Foundation on the robbery of 505 lots of furniture and other appliances in February 1986.

According to Ofecod Report No. 028-92, those lots of furniture had been hidden for four years at the Sandoval Transport Company, a fact that "has not been reported, and no control action was adopted either."

It is appropriate to mention that the "Sandoval Transport Company" belongs to current government congressman Oswaldo Sandoval, who last year led the privatization of Enatruperu [National Urban Transportation Enterprise] by government order.

The Ofecod letter accuses former Controller General's Office officials of not acting with fairness in overseeing that organization "because they tried to conceal criminal actions."

It adds that proof of all this is that former Ofecod directors general have never been called to testify, and they should have an answer on the destination of financial aid received from abroad.

The letter asks for information on the more than $60 million received from the EEC, the United States, and the Federal Republic of Germany. Calderon Otoya said he does not know what may have happened to those funds.

Article on Clinton Antidrug, Political Strategy

PY2602205393 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Feb 93 p 19

[Article by Roger Rumrill from Washington]

[Text] Drug trafficking is really no longer the main point of the negotiations between Fujimori's administration and the United States. The change in Clinton's antidrug policy has substantially modified Peruvian relations with the First World power.

Clear signs have been noted since 1992 that the Democrats in power were about to check and reformulate the "Andean Drug War" conducted by former Presidents Reagan and Bush. There is no doubt about the first political and economic decision by the Clinton's administration: The United States will assign top priority to the struggle against drugs, which is a scourge devastating U.S. society, and to the control of drug addicts, which include rehabilitation and education programs.

This decision was reaffirmed at the U.S. Department of State itself during a talk we held with Andean Affairs Office Director Anne Patterson.

Her opinions are decisive for the political decisions made by the Latin American affairs under secretary. She said the economic situation is the major argument for the strategy change. The Department of State has decided to suspend the installation of radar at the city of Yurimaguas airport and to withdraw all equipment by 28 February because of the crisis and lack of resources.

Democracy and Human Rights: New Priorities

This change in the U.S. antidrug strategy sweeps away Fujimori's main instrument of political negotiation. As everybody knows, the terrible Fujishock that took place in August 1990, "Fujimori's Doctrine on Drugs," and the antidrug agreement reached with the United States in May 1991 had a major political objective: to reinstate Peru in the world financial system. The United States, the world's major drug consumer, regarded relations with Peru, the No.1 producer of coca leaf, as strategic because the two countries outlined an antidrug policy designed to control and eradicate coca, repress producers, and implement so-called alternative development.

This change of viewpoints and priorities has just been demonstrated by the suspension of economic aid to the alternative development program in the Andean countries (Patterson told me that even Bolivia, the country assigned the most economic aid in exchange for coca eradication, soon will not receive a single dollar) and to other political projects.

The U.S.' reluctant attitude to head the new Support Group is evidence of this strategic change. The new Clinton administration has two targets: democracy and human rights.

The State Department's latest report is very critical of the human rights situation in Peru. And the feeling one

gets in the Capitol's congressional offices is that the Fujimori government is walking on knife edge under a climate of instability that gets on one's nerves.

It does not matter that the Fujimori government fulfilled the democratic formalities of calling for the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] and municipal elections. But for international public opinion, either in Washington, Paris, or Copenhagen, Fujimori's authoritarian, unpredictable, and anti- dialogue behavior give his government a heavy atmosphere of dictatorship.

Therefore, the Fujimori government will have two serious problems with the new dweller of the White House: the economic crisis of this world power (a Federal Reserve expert told me that the index of recovery of the last few weeks was caused by increased production but it does not resolve the major problem: unemployment), and the international policy on human rights and democracy, which are matters that will be made state issues by Congress.

This will be a state issue indeed because a world power in crisis like the United States urgently needs to renew its strategies, its speeches, and its priorities to reach its short-, medium-, and long- range geopolitical goals.

Under new geopolitical and strategic goals, the awkward interventions of the past (Panama, Grenada, Persian Gulf) may be disguised, now and in the future, as humanitarian actions (Somalia) and for the defense of democracy and human rights, and even the defense of the environment.

But in the case of Peru and under the current circumstances, there will be no reason to doubt the good intentions of the defense of democracy and human rights, especially in the face of a government that already has broken the sad world record on the missing.

Editorial Criticizes Clinton's Antidrug Policy

PY2602194293 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 15 Feb 93 p A22

[Editorial: "Clinton's Antidrug Policy Has Neither Stick nor Carrot"]

[Text] In the Andean countries' fight against the common enemy of drug trafficking, nothing would be more stimulating than finding that there is increasing awareness of the need to take joint defensive action.

A few days ago, this editorial column demanded action on the part of Colombia. That country did take action. On 13 February, there was a major clash between a small plane coming from Peru and Bolivia—which was carrying 500 kg of high-purity cocaine—and Colombian Air Force planes and police helicopters. The small plane was defended, during a confrontation that lasted several hours, by 60 men of the so-called Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), an ex-guerrilla movement that operates today as a mercenary at the service of drug trafficking. FARC men recently had to enter Peruvian territory while escaping from Colombian military troops.

Three facts should be underlined in this regard. First, the government of Colombian President Gaviria has finally decided to make a 180-degree change in its drug enforcement policy. Colombians are fed up with the murderous violence of drug godfathers. The attempt to coexist with drug trafficking by the naive method of buying their "surrender," in exchange for the promise not to be extradited to the United States, has obviously failed. Pablo Escobar Gaviria actually did a favor to Colombia by escaping from his fictitious prison. Now that Colombia has seen what weak behavior can yield when confronted with such staggering economic power, it is time to design a joint drug enforcement policy with that country and Bolivia and Ecuador.

Second, contrary to what occurred in the past, the plane coming from Peru and Bolivia was carrying pure cocaine, instead of cocaine paste or washed coca paste. This means that the laboratories that produce high-purity cocaine are now in Peru and Bolivia; they are no longer in Colombia. It is a new situation. From the viewpoint of Peru, the truth is that stronger Colombian military action will bring here—closer to the raw material—the drug laboratories and the mercenary groups that guarantee the Colombian godfathers' control of them. Fine. Perhaps there is a factor in Peruvian historical destiny by which the final battle against narcoterrorism in South America might have to be fought on Peruvian territory.

Third, however, today there is sad irony, as far as the United States is concerned. Clinton now seems to have the same weakness that previously afflicted Colombian President Gaviria. Clinton has other priority targets: He believes drug enforcement funds should go to education, treatment, and law enforcement within the United States.

Clinton is choosing not to fight at the worst possible moment, when the real battle approaches. However, the responsibility of the United States, the world's largest drug market, cannot be denied. Consequently, if Clinton does not want to repress, he should at least finance alternative development. We can take care of the stick, but someone has to provide the carrot—which is essential for this war. This would be more consistent with the Democratic Party's "sensitivity" to human rights and poverty. Here there would be neither ideological nor moral excuse.

But Clinton certainly can decide not to do it. It is his money. But Clinton seems to be about to make the same mistake that many of us made before: being weak in the face of the military nature of the antidrug war. Let us all be warned.

Editorial on 'Deed That Threatens National Security'

PY2602191193 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 12 Feb 93 p A22

[Editorial: "To Jointly Conduct Common Defense Operations"]

[Text] Frederick Hamilton has confessed to a U.S. court that he supplied information about the Peruvian military potential. According to the WASHINGTON POST, Hamilton allegedly passed information to the Ecuadoran Government while he was an employee of the U.S. Embassy in Lima. The news has caused serious concern in Peru. Hamilton's confession is enough to justify a diplomatic complaint to the United States, firmly calling for a thorough explanation and apologies for a deed that threatens national security, particularly because a foreign diplomat accredited to Peru was responsible for it.

Such deed endangers relations that have been laboriously reconstructed. In an absurd fashion, the U.S. diplomat has invoked in his defense the protection of these same relations. Quito's political reaction, embodied in Foreign Minister Diego Paredes, expressed the Ecuadoran Government's interest in "consolidating peace and in dialogue with friendly nations." Fortunately, the two nations are currently beginning to share a horizon of peace and cooperation that cannot be undermined, not even by the irresponsibility of the U.S. official.

During a different stage of Peruvian-Ecuadoran relations, the confession by the U.S. agent and the WASHINGTON POST's zeal would have started a series of communiques and diplomatic notes between the two countries. There might have been troop deployments and even purchase of weapons, all to benefit those who profit by these situation by selling weapons on the international market. Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Paredes has identified what really counts in bilateral relations, not anachronistic Latin American small scale espionage stories: To prevent these events from troubling waters that have been very difficult to calm. Nothing should prevent or hinder Ecuadoran President Duran Ballen's visit, scheduled during the next few months.

In addition to apologizing for the effects that the crime admitted by Hamilton could have had on Peruvian-Ecuadoran relations, the United States should keep in mind its obligations as guarantor of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

This is not all. During the last few years, Peruvian and Ecuadoran Armed Forces have been cooperating—in an ever increasing and effective manner—to oppose their real common enemy: drug trafficking. In this definite example of cooperation, mixed groups of personnel from the two countries' Armed Forces have been cooperating in the processing of data obtained by the radar units installed by the two countries with U.S. assistance to control drug trafficker flights. One of these radar units was installed in Ecuadoran territory and two others in Peruvian territory.

Ecuadoran contingents have worked in Peruvian territory and Peruvian troops have conducted operations in Ecuadoran territory to fight this scourge that has undermined the foundations of the governments of all countries worldwide where it has occurred. The two countries have thus cooperated for the first time in common defense operations. To these people, and to all those of good faith, it must seem that any attempt to separate these two countries which have begun to jointly defend themselves from the drug trafficking scourge can have no other objective—at least if conducted involuntarily—than to serve the obscure purposes of a conspiracy.

Uruguay

President Lacalle Refuses To Meet Pinochet

PY2702234093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1520 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Feb (EFE)—The Montevideo newspapers on 27 February hailed the position of Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle, who refused to meet former Chilean President General Augusto Pinochet. The Montevideo newspapers noted that Lacalle's gesture represents "an amends" for our country.

A brief communique issued by the presidential press office reported to the media "that President Luis Alberto Lacalle will not meet with Gen. Pinochet."

Meanwhile, Pinochet, who has been on a private visit to Uruguay since 24 February, went from Montevideo to Piriapolis, a beach resort in eastern Uruguay 96 km from the capital, and was lodged at a hotel where there is a geriatric treatment center.

The "Piria Vital" center has rejuvenation treatment halls and experts who follow the techniques advocated by Romanian expert Dr. Ana Aslan.

Pinochet's presence in Montevideo elicited protests and fierce rejection by the Uruguayan political class.

Shortly after arriving in Uruguay, Pinochet said he intended to greet President Lacalle and that the appropriate diplomatic steps where under way for this purpose.

The Christian Democratic Party of Uruguay, a member of the World Union of Christian Democrats to which Chilean President Patricio Aylwin's party also belongs, issued a communique on Pinochet's visit, ironically telling him that anyone can freely come to Uruguay and freely go at any moment, but that, in his case, "the sooner he leaves, the better."

Venezuela

Outbreaks of Violence Reported in Cumana

PA0203035593 Paris AFP in Spanish 2301 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Cumana, Venezuela, 1 Mar (AFP)—More outbreaks of student violence were reported on 1 March in Cumana, 350 km east of Caracas. It is the capital of Sucre State, one of the two Venezuelan states shaken by outbreaks of violence in February following the suspension of the new elections for governor, according to local news agency INNAC.

INNAC reported that students from a vocational school staged the disorders without explaining the reason for their protests. They threw soda bottles and set tires on fire, obstructing traffic and forcing businesses to close their doors.

The rowdy students were dispersed by the police, who arrested several of them and forced them to pick up the obstacles that were left on the avenue. [passage omitted]

Eleven Killed During Uprising at Penitentiary

PA0103185793 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1820 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Caracas, 1 Mar (DPA)—Local radio stations have announced that at least 11 inmates were killed and 20 injured on 1 March during an uprising at the Tocoron jail, approximately 200 km southwest of Caracas.

Almost 1,200 inmates occupied the jail after one inmate was killed on 28 February during a first attempt at an uprising, according to a Radio Rumbos report from Villa de Cura.

Spokesmen for the police, who controlled the uprising, asserted that the situation remains tense now that relatives have surrounded the jail to demand information regarding the inmates' fate.

Approximately 20 people, some of whom were seriously injured, were taken to Maracay Central Hospital according to a spokesman for the militarized National Guard.

Over the past few days the authorities transferred an undisclosed number of inmates from the Catia jail in downtown Caracas to the Tocoron jail in an attempt to ease overcrowding in Venezuela's penitentiaries, which has caused violent uprisings over the past few months.

On 27 November approximately 60 inmates were killed at the Catia jail, the largest jail in the Venezuelan capital, which was designed for approximately 700 inmates, but which until a few days ago housed over 4,000 people.

Minister Parra Announces Oil Quota Reduction

PA0103200793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Alirio Parra, energy and mines minister, has officially announced the reduction of Venezuela's oil quota and reported on agreements reached at the last OPEC meeting in Vienna. The decision to reduce oil exports will increase the price per barrel of local oil and thus have a very important effect on the Venezuelan ecohomy. The latest OPEC conference decided that effective 1 March, Venezuela should export 2.57 million barrels per day.

The minister added that in its 4 March session the cabinet will consider the possibility of sending Congress a number of agreements designed to industrialize Venezuela's hydrocarbons industry.